



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Celebrate Noe Valley History Day June 8

By Anne Gates

The annual Noe Valley History Day is Sunday, June 8, so don't forget to pack up your memories and toddle on over to the celebration from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey St. (near Castro).

This year's theme is 24th Street, and a photo exhibit at the library will document the evolution of Noe Valley's liveliest commercial strip.

Two musical performances will also spice up the party. The Singing Rainbow, a children's singing group, will give a concert at 2:30. Librarian Roberta Greifer says, "They're very popular!"

"They've got a lot of energy," agrees History Day organizer Paul Kantus, who heads up one of Noe Valley's oldest residents' groups, the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club.

At 3:30, folksinger Bruce Sherman will sing sea chanteys and folk songs. Sherman is another local favorite who strummed and played at last year's History Day.

In addition, the library will show archival films, including a documentary



In the 1930s, the No. 11 streetcar chugged past the Noe Theater and a gas station located where Coast Savings is now, at the corner of 24th and Noe. For more excursions into the neighborhood's past, visit the Noe Valley Library on Sunday, June 8.

Photo courtesy of Paul Kantus

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Driver of Stolen Truck Dies in Crash On 24th Street

By Loren J. Bialik

A drunk driver died May 12 when the stolen truck he was driving down 24th Street toward Diamond struck two vehicles, overturned, and broke up.

"I heard the noise, looked out my kitchen window, and saw the accident," said 24th Street resident Gwen Santos.

"The driver was coming down 24th Street in a '50s Ford pickup. He sideswiped one car, shearing off the mirror, then hit a Toyota Land Cruiser. The pickup flipped over on its side. The truck bed went in one direction, and the hood in another."

The accident occurred at 3:37 p.m., tying up traffic for hours. Fortunately, the Land Cruiser was unoccupied, and no bystanders were hurt.

This was the final episode for a man who'd spent the day wreaking havoc on Noe Valley. Less than an hour earlier he'd been seen ripping foliage off a trellis, smashing windows, and stealing from cars in the 23rd and Diamond Street area. Witnesses said he was ranting and talk-

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Many police, fire, and emergency crews responded in the aftermath of a May 12 crash at 24th and Diamond, which took the life of the driver of a stolen Ford pickup. *Photo by Gwen Santos*

Pigeon Lady Wings Her Way Home to Estonia

By Sally Smith

For once, more people than pigeons turned out to say goodbye to Anna Muru, Noe Valley's embattled "Pigeon Lady," who was flying home to Estonia—a land she hadn't seen in 50 years.

This spring she sold the house she'd owned for the past two decades at 1329 Sanchez St., near Cesar Chavez.

At a May 10 going-away party on the sidewalk in front of her house, Muru feasted on cake and cold cuts, danced to a jazz band, and exchanged hugs and kisses with a loyal group of friends, neighbors, and supporters.

Though last fall another group of neighbors—mostly homeowners with roofs to protect—had won a restraining order prohibiting the 84-year-old Muru from feeding the birds on Noe Valley streets, she said she wasn't bitter.

"I don't go with hatred. I'm most happy, *most* happy," to be rejoining family in Pärnu, Estonia. "In Estonia, there are lots of pigeons and trees," Muru said, gesturing toward the large pine tree in front of her home, recently shorn of its branches to prepare for new owners.

Then she put her arms around her old friend Pauline Kaldre, another Estonia



Anna Muru (left) poses with longtime friend Pauline Kaldre, who also was born in Estonia and immigrated after World War II.

Photo by Sally Smith

native, who'd come up from San Carlos to bid a tearful farewell.

"It's been traumatic for Anna," said Judy Rydell, the realtor who helped Muru sell her pigeon poop- and feather-coated Victorian under the watchful gaze of many testy Noe Valley residents. "But I'm so glad it's worked out. She has relatives waiting for her—her brother and his family—and she's taking her cat, Zsa Zsa."

Rydell, a Hoffman Avenue resident who works for Zephyr Real Estate, said Muru received 17 bids for her house, all "way over" the asking price of \$199,000. "What we were selling was basically lot value," she noted, due to the dilapidated condition of the property.

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Fatherhood got even better for Warren Karlenzig 13 months ago, when Owen arrived to join big brother 2-year-old Jackson at their Vicksburg Street household. Now they have twice the reason to celebrate Father's Day on Sunday, June 15.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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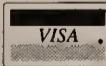
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LETTERS 32¢

Fly the Friendly Intersections

Editor:

My best to Ms. Anicich, chronicled in your May issue ["Bicyclist Thrown 50 Feet After Hitting Pothole on 23rd Street"].

One late night several years ago while I was crossing 24th Street with the light, a motorist driving southward on Dolores turned left and accelerated into me in the intersection. Even though I attempted to jump free of the onrushing auto, its front bumper clipped me mid-calf, launching me a reported 20 vertical feet. I remember wondering while airborne when I would land.

Bruised in the legs and ribs, I walked away to my apartment, where I was interviewed by the police.

Dean Mitchell
Jersey Street

Where There's Smoke, There's Ire

Editor:

Well, there goes the neighborhood.

At a time when most people are exulting because the tobacco companies seem to be finally on the run, Noe Valley gets a cigar "boutique," which sells death sticks of the same ilk, only marketed as yuppie treats. We are disappointed that you chose to profile this new business [Storetrek, May 1997 Voice], and so enthusiastically too. Next thing you know, people will be walking around Noe Valley with those turds in their mouths, thinking they look cool and fouling the air far worse than cigarette smokers ever did. If you think that's farfetched, take a look at North Beach on a weekend evening.

We see by your article that "manufacturers or vendors might make appearances at the store to further educate cigar fans." Let's hope a lot of stalwart Noe Valleyans, who can think for themselves and refuse to be pawns of the tobacco industry's marketing machine, will show up and ask pointed questions.

Kristin Anundsen
Yana Zimmerman
Jim Gabbard
27th Street

Parking Solutions for the Urban Village

Editor:

I am writing to make sure your readers know that many people who live in Noe Valley are opposed to residential parking zones ["Scouting for Parking in Downtown Noe Valley," April 1997 Voice].

Some Jersey Street residents are even circulating a petition, "Against Residential Parking Zones," in direct opposition to Ron Olsen's proposal for a two-hour permit zone. However, they do support diagonal parking on Castro.

The Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association hereby goes on record as being against residential parking permit zones. Residential parking zones would only undermine our efforts to solve the congestion in our commercial/residential neighborhood.

Our clients and customers, visitors and

Voice Mail

The Voice welcomes letters. Write to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or send e-mail to jaxvoice@aol.com.

Please include your name, address, and phone number, so that we can contact you if we have questions.

Another way to reach us is via our Web site at www.noevalleyvoice.com. There you'll find some background on the newspaper, the Class Ad listings, and several stories from current and past issues. We look forward to your comments. Write soon.

neighbors, need more parking, not restrictions on parking. To properly enjoy a Noe Valley outing and experience our urban village atmosphere requires the freedom to browse, shop, and visit with friends and family without the worry of a two-hour parking zone restriction, a costly ticket, or a towed vehicle.

The zone idea will only move the all-day parker into someone else's back yard a few blocks away, which is utterly unfair and a selfish approach to the problem.

Diagonal parking beyond the commercial area is a real solution. The present metered parking along 24th Street between Chattanooga and Castro is approximately 150 meters. By converting the bus zones to coach stops, you would add 13 more parking spots, and by converting designated areas on Diamond, Castro, Noe, and Sanchez to diagonal parking, we would gain 157 parking spaces.

The city would gain 42 metered parking spaces, and the neighborhood would gain 128 nonmetered spaces, for an overall total of 170 new parking spaces.

Diagonal parking will add much needed support for the business community, offset the loss due to the installation of the disability ramps at Church and 24th streets, and ease the residential parking congestion throughout Noe Valley.

Robert T. Roddick
President, Noe Valley Merchants
and Professionals Association



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LETTERS

A Drive to Limit Cars in Golden Gate Park

Editor:

Like many Noe Valley residents, I spend a lot of time in Golden Gate Park. I'm always amazed by the diversity of people and activities in the park on a sunny weekend. The park is in full glory on Sundays, when John F. Kennedy Drive is closed and the area around the conservatory is filled with people skating, biking, running, and strolling around.

I am working with the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition (431-BIKE) to help reduce cars in Golden Gate Park. Our first priority is to close JFK Drive to cars on Saturdays as well as Sundays. We all deal with city streets crowded with cars every day. We should be able to enjoy the park as it is meant to be—an urban refuge that is safe, quiet, and free of pollution and speeding vehicles.

A key issue regarding closure of JFK Drive on Saturdays [raised by *Voice* writer Florence Holub last month] is the potential impact on attendance at the de Young Museum and the Academy of Sciences. This is a legitimate concern. I believe that the museums are an asset to the park and that they contribute to the rich mix of activities and people that make the park so vibrant. I have been a loyal member of the Academy of Sciences for years, and I'd like to see both museums stay in the park.

However, this issue should not be framed as a battle between skaters and cyclists and museum patrons. Our goal is to make the park a more pleasant environment for *all* visitors, not to drive the museum-goers away.

I believe we can work together to find solutions, such as expanded shuttle service and better transit access, which improve public access to the park while reducing the vehicle impacts. I hope the museums will help us develop solutions.

Please join the campaign to make Golden Gate Park a cleaner, quieter, and safer place. Write to the mayor and to the Recreation and Park Commission to let them know you support measures to reduce cars in the park.

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Realtor Judy Rydell, legal assistants Inna Bleykhman and Lenore Gerard, and Sanchez neighbor Viki Lewis gave Anna Muru (second from left) a royal sendoff last month. Photo by Sally Smith

Pigeon Lady of Sanchez Street Flies Home

Continued from Page 1

Rydell handled the sale very discreetly. "There were no signs. I only showed the house to licensed contractors or people used to taking on major renovations." After all the controversy over the Pigeon Lady, "I didn't want all the Looky-Lou's going through her home."

The winning bid of \$241,000 was from an East Bay developer who plans extensive remodeling. "That money is what's enabling Anna to go back to Estonia," Rydell beamed.

Among the other well-wishers at the party were Muru's court defenders Lenore Gerard, Inna Bleykhman, and Tom Drohan—of Legal Assistance to the Elderly. Gerard set out the food and drink and chatted with Muru and her friends, while Drohan played bass in his swing band, the Chazz Cats.

Bleykhman, however, was still a little steamed about what she saw as Noe Valley's persecution of Muru. "[The recent court injunction] was a witch hunt by this heavily yupped neighborhood. People here don't want to accept anyone who is different," she said.

Viki Lewis and Frank Simeone, who live a block down Sanchez Street, were also embarrassed by the attitude of their neighbors. "They cared more about a building than a person," said Lewis. "It was like the *Scarlet Letter*. Somebody even tried to frame her," by spreading extra birdseed around Muru's house.

The couple said they sympathized with those whose roofs were slimed by the hundreds of pigeons who waited on the wires for the Pigeon Lady to make her rounds. But they wished the complainers had taken the time to find out why Muru couldn't control her bird-feeding.

"It went back to her being in a country that was overrun by the Nazis and Russians during World War II," said Simeone. "There was lots of fighting, and here she was, a teenager, homeless, parentless, wandering around starving to death. Her whole thing about hunger created this obsession with feeding the pigeons."

Twenty-sixth Street resident Jane Willson, another of her supporters, felt most people treated Muru as if she were too old and senile to be reasoned with. "Once I got up the nerve to talk to her," Willson said, "I found that she was an incredibly warm person, a humanitarian even," whose heart went out to all living things. "All she ever really wanted was to return to Estonia, to see her parents' grave."

As this reporter/editor was leaving the party, I asked Muru if she'd like to say bye to my dog Boychik, who was tied to a nearby signpost. The Pigeon Lady had been one of his favorite attractions on walks through the neighborhood, since she'd often stop and feed him bits of food.

I said I was sorry if the *Voice* had contributed to the media frenzy surrounding her illegal bird-feeding. (Our first story was "Pigeon Poop Ruffles Noe Feathers," in May 1988. Then, in February 1992, we published "The Long and Winding Road of Noe Valley's Pigeon Lady," which aired both Muru's and the disgruntled neighbors' views.)

"Try to forgive us," I said, getting into the spirit of the day. Then I couldn't help adding, "But you know, Anna, many of our neighbors, especially the older people living next door, couldn't handle all the mess from the pigeons."

She smiled, leaned in closer, and said, "They were right too in a way. I did get carried away with the birds."

Then she popped some turkey in Boychik's mouth, and whirled back to the dance floor.

Muru's realtor Judy Rydell said it was "touch and go" right up to the last-minute and that they almost didn't get her cat on the plane, but Anna Muru did fly away home on May 19.

Reminisce on History Day

Continued from Page 1

about the recollections of Tillie Smith, a lifelong Noe Valley resident who died several years ago. Smith was 17 years old in 1906 and then living on Jersey Street.

"Tillie has marvelous memories of 24th Street shops and the neighborhood," says Kantus. He will also screen a film about the Market Street Railway, which ran the city's streetcars and cable cars before Muni came along.

Last year's History Day covered "The Decades," from 1910 to 1960. In the past, the spotlight has also been on the Noe Valley of the '60s, the neighborhood's schools, and the three movie palaces that once presided over 24th Street.

Kantus says he's open to suggestions for future History Day themes. He is also seeking historical photos and artifacts. If you would like to loan your treasures, please label them with your name, address, and phone number, and drop them off at the library by Tuesday, June 3. Or call Paul Kantus at 647-3753.

Librarian Greifer notes that regular library services will not be available the day of the party, June 8. However, refreshments will be served, and the event is free.

Driver Dies In Crash on 24th Street

Continued from Page 1

ing to himself as he walked up 23rd Street. He even asked a man whose car he was about to vandalize to phone police. (See Officer Lois Perillo's report in Police Beat, page 13.)

The man had stolen the Ford pickup—from in front of a house on Hoffman—only minutes before his fatal crash on 24th Street. Police later determined the 29-year-old man had twice the legal limit of alcohol in his bloodstream.

The driver, whose name was not released pending verification of his identity, was pronounced dead at the scene at 3:45 p.m. For more than a week after the accident, police reports simply listed him as John Doe #50.

Editor's note: In late May, police confirmed the dead man's identity as Patrick Ryan. Ryan's last-known address was on Woodward Street, near 14th Street in the Mission. Police noted he had past arrests for car theft. Ryan had also been held for psychiatric evaluation, and had reportedly been the victim of domestic abuse.

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Zephyr Has Eyes on a Second Story

By Anne Gates

"We're very crowded down here!" says Ilse Cordon, sales manager at Zephyr Real Estate. The office is so crowded, in fact, that Zephyr is thinking about expanding to the second floor of its building on 24th Street between Noe and Castro.

Zephyr moved into 4040 24th St. in 1993. The property was built in the early 1970s and had been home to various banks until Zephyr took over. (A sturdy vault still exists, which is now being used as the world's safest conference room.)

The building's original blueprints showed plans for three floors, but only the ground floor was ever finished. An unfinished second floor currently exists, hidden from view from the street by a facade.

The real estate firm now wants to finish off and enlarge the second floor, plus add a deck on the back of the property. "Expansion would give us 2,000 square feet of new office space and room for more computers," Cordon says. "And the project would not change the facade at all."

Zephyr would increase its occupancy slightly, and that means a few more cars

in the area. "Parking is a major neighborhood concern, and I understand that," Cordon says.

Currently, 30 to 35 employees are in the office each day. However, a new second floor would enable some part-time employees to work full time. But Cordon insists, "We're not talking about doubling the number of agents."

An internal staircase would join the two floors, and skylights would probably be installed on the roof. The construction project would not be a huge structural change, she says, since the building was designed to have more than one floor anyway. In any case, Zephyr's employees want as little disruption as possible.

Behind the Zephyr building is a narrow walkway about 70 feet long. Right now the space is overgrown with weeds and almost inaccessible, Cordon says. Zephyr would like to add a deck in that rear space, to make it usable for staff. The realtors also hope the patio area will be significantly more attractive to the Elizabeth Street residents whose back yards abut the property.

So far, the ideas are just detailed dreams, Cordon says, but she is hopeful that construction might begin next spring. Zephyr still needs to obtain engineering reports, a cost analysis, full architectural plans, and a conditional use permit.

To test the waters, she and Zephyr's owner, Bill Drypolcher, made the rounds of the neighborhood groups in April and May. They spoke with Friends of Noe Valley, the East & West of Castro Club, and the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association.

The Friends urged them to write to their immediate neighbors, so Drypolcher sent off a letter last month.

Meanwhile, Cordon says residents and merchants who are curious to see the plans in person are welcome to stop by the Zephyr office and look at a set of preliminary sketches and photos.

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Peace Comes Hard to Glen Canyon

By Steve Steinberg

Tranquillity may return this summer to the slopes and paths of Glen Canyon, San Francisco's "wilderness" area just over the hill from Noe Valley.

The canyon, part of the Glen Park Recreation Area bordered by O'Shaughnessy Boulevard and Elk Street, has been the focus of an intense two-year brush war between anti-car partisans and the city's Recreation and Park Department.

The controversy centered on whether parents should be allowed to drive down the service road that runs through the heart of the canyon to ferry their children to Silver Tree Summer Day Camp.

Finally, after the intercession of Mayor Willie Brown's office last fall, the dispute over cars appears to have been settled. Rec and Park has agreed that Muni buses will deliver and pick up the Silver Tree kids. Also, private cars will not be allowed down the road this summer.

But so much acrimony remains that to no one's great surprise, the battle over the canyon has now shifted from cars to unleashed dogs.

70 Acres of Wildlife Preserve

Whatever their position on dogs or cars, all sides agree that Glen Canyon is a precious treasure, both to the Glen Park neighborhood and to the city as a whole.

Designated a "significant" natural resource by the Recreation and Park Department in 1995, the canyon is the ravine running through 70-acre Glen Park, from which the neighborhood takes its name.

The canyon is home to many plant and wildlife species, both native and imported. It is fairly common to see hawks soaring high above the eucalyptus trees searching for prey. And in the early evening you can hear owls hooting in the trees.

Flowing through the canyon is Islais Creek, San Francisco's only above-ground free-flowing stream. Over the past few years, the California Conservation Corps has made an extraordinary effort to restore the land around the creek and to make it a true nature preserve. The corps has also cleared trails and built bridges and fences.

Thirty-three-year Glen Park resident Zoe Nordstrom, who led the fight against cars in the park, calls the canyon a "respite from urban stress."

A decade ago, she said, cars on the service road, known as Alms Road, were not a problem. However, as time passed, more and more cars started driving through the park, especially in the summer. "The



Over the past two years, Alms Road in Glen Canyon has been the scene of some ugly spots between dog walkers and parents driving their kids to and from camp. Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

gates were left open [by Rec and Park staff] all summer," said Nordstrom. "You eventually had total access by cars to this environmentally sensitive area."

Neighbor Barbara Zierten was also concerned about potential harm from the cars. "Rec and Park said there was no proof cars were damaging the environment. But 120 cars on the road a day has to do some damage."

Zierten said the situation was particularly bad on Thursday evenings during the summer, when as many as 135 cars parked on the shoulder of Alms Road to attend the "campfires," family get-togethers for Silver Tree parents and kids.

Drivers also increasingly ignored the 4-mile-an-hour speed limit. Said one Glen Park resident, "If you were walking along the road, you would often have to jump out of the way to avoid being hit."

Nordstrom, a veteran of anti-freeway campaigns in the 1960s, said this was not the first time cars had encroached on Glen Canyon. In 1962, the city wanted to widen O'Shaughnessy Boulevard from

two lanes to four and run an overpass through the park, cutting down many of the trees in the process.

Glen Park residents then mounted what would turn out to be a 15-year fight to preserve the canyon in its present form.

Silver Tree a Private Club?

The Neighbors for a Car-Free Park, as some local residents styled themselves, also accused Silver Tree of having become a "private club," serving only children whose parents had cars and the time to drive them in and out of the park.

Back in the '70s, buses used to pick up kids at various city locations and take them to Silver Tree. But in 1988 the bus service stopped for budgetary reasons.

"When the buses stopped, there was no access for poorer children," said Nordstrom. She maintains that the original intent of Silver Tree Camp, founded in 1941, was to provide a one-week outdoor experience for "children who couldn't get out of the city." But many parents, Nordstrom said, were now using the camp as

"inexpensive day care," rather than as a limited day camp experience.

The camp, which begins June 16, has a one-week curriculum, costing \$35, repeated each week for 10 weeks. Parents can sign up their child for as many weeks as they wish, but the children will be doing the same things week after week.

Road Throws People for a Loop

When people began protesting to the Recreation and Park Department two years ago about the growing number of cars, Rec and Park responded with a proposal to build a new loop road. Cars would enter the park from a gate off O'Shaughnessy, then exit at Elk Street. In addition, the plan called for paving Alms Road and the creation of a parking lot at the rear of the park's recreation building.

Critics like Nordstrom immediately suspected the city was trying "to institutionalize traffic" in the park.

But Joel Robinson, current manager of Rec and Park, said the loop plan, which was put together before his tenure, "was never intended to bring in more cars, but to mitigate the effect of cars in the park."

Whatever Rec and Park's intention, "the neighborhood went berserk," Nordstrom said.

For the next year, residents waged a fierce campaign to rid the canyon of cars. Two petition drives gathered more than 4,500 signatures. Angry residents wrote letters to the Board of Supervisors.

Former supervisor and now state assemblyman Kevin Shelley held two hearings on the loop road. At first, Shelley appeared opposed to the idea, but then he seemed to support it.

Zierten believes the supervisor "was heavily lobbied" by the pro-car side. But eventually, after another letter-writing campaign, Shelley dropped the loop road from the board's agenda.

Dust and Fur Start to Fly

Last summer opponents of cars began taking a more activist approach. Pickets carrying signs began showing up at the Elk Street entrance as parents dropped off or picked up their kids.

Some of the Silver Tree parents said the protesters got pretty aggressive. "They would jump in front of your car or stick their faces inside your car window," said Lynn Estrella, a Glen Park resident.

Another parent said he observed Nordstrom deliberately walking slowly up the dusty canyon road in front of a long line of cars, backing traffic up to Elk Street.

Estrella, who's part of a group that wants to put an end to unleashed dogs in the park, claimed that most of the anti-car people were dog owners who saw the park as exclusively theirs. "They wanted everyone to get out of there except dog

Continued on Page 8

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Residents Still Sniping Over Cars and Dogs In Glen Park

Continued from Page 7

owners," she said.

Estrella also maintained that she and her daughter would have been in danger if they had had to walk to Silver Tree instead of drive. "If you want me to get out of my car and walk, you need to put the dogs on a leash."

One fact that emerged from all the discussions was that no one seemed willing to compromise. Zierten, who belonged to a "working group" trying to reach a solution, said, "We had 12 people [in the group] and 12 points of view."

But last fall Mayor Brown assigned a special liaison to help rein in the various factions. Within a few months, Rec and Park's Robinson announced that Muni would provide the daily bus service.

Buses to Replace Cars in Summer

The buses will pick up kids at parks throughout the city and transport them to Silver Tree Camp. Muni will charge the campers 50 cents per day roundtrip.

Robinson said he was pleased with the bus deal. "I feel great about it," he said. "This will allow us to bring to many kids the opportunity to go to camp that they didn't have before."

Robinson said his goal was to have as many children as possible attend the camp. His department may also restrict kids to only one week per summer starting next year.

The people for a car-free park also were happy, although not unequivocally so. "It's not perfect, but it is a huge step forward," said Zierten.

Nordstrom said she would have preferred that the buses drop the children off at the entrance to the park rather than take them into the canyon. "Still, I'm thrilled that kids who should have this experience are going to get it."

Although private cars will be barred from Glen Canyon this summer, they will be allowed during the non-summer months. That's because the Silver Tree Camp building is also the home of the Glenridge Cooperative Nursery School, which operates there the rest of the year.

Glenridge parents say they're trying to keep the cars to a minimum. "We have a strong environmental program and want to safeguard the canyon," said Stephen Rosen, a school spokesperson. "Most of our parents obey the speed limit, and we encourage them to carpool and walk in."

He added that although he believed a small group of protesters wanted to banish all traffic from the park, "most people recognized there had to be a certain amount to accommodate seniors, the disabled, and small children."

No sooner had the car and bus situation been settled last fall, then the attention

shifted to dogs.

Probably dozens of people walk their dogs every morning and evening up Alms Road and on recently opened trails. At times dogwalkers are the only people to be found on the road.

But to some in the park, the dogs are a nuisance and a threat. And last month a San Francisco police officer said that because of citizen complaints, the Ingleside Police Station, in whose jurisdiction Glen Park falls, would begin a major crackdown on off-leash dogs in the park.

The officer, who did not wish to be identified, also said that police might be shifted from other, higher crime areas to give \$100 tickets to those who let their dogs run free. He added that in his mind the dog patrol would not be an "effective use of limited police resources."

To the people who fought the cars in the canyon, collaring the dogs is a petty attempt at revenge by frustrated drivers. "The dog issue is a retaliatory effort launched by people who lost on the car issue," said Zierten.

But to those urging the police to enforce the law—clearly posted signs, stating that dogs must be kept on a leash, abound in Glen Park—the two issues have nothing to do with one another.

"It's absolutely not retaliatory, it's a safety issue," said Lynn Estrella, who used to drive her daughter to Silver Tree.

Estrella said she'd been pushing to have leash laws enforced ever since her child was chased by an unleashed dog last year.

"Children and dogs are unpredictable," she said.

She added that Glen Park did not have a "designated" dog run. "We have compromised just by letting dogs be in the park." Estrella also complained about pet owners failing to pick up their dogs' feces and allowing their animals to pollute Islais Creek.

Glenridge's Rosen agreed that there had been several incidents where off-leash dogs had knocked over children from his nursery school. Most of the incidents occurred on Alms Road, he said, when parents were walking their kids to or from school. Rosen noted, however, that most dog owners were careful about keeping their pets away from the actual school site.

Police to Send in Motor Bikes?

Meanwhile, Captain Rick Bruce, the newly appointed captain at Ingleside Station, tried to clarify how police would respond to complaints about dogs.

Bruce said the police would step up enforcement of the leash law at the park. But they'd begin by posting larger and "better articulated" signs, so that dog owners would be adequately forewarned.

He noted that while he might occasionally send officers on motorized bikes, he wouldn't assign officers to look for dogs on a regular basis. "I have no intention of wasting police resources in Glen Park. There are more violent parks in the city," he said.

Bruce acknowledged that "simmering disputes" over park use, as well as complaints from a very few people, were behind the tougher measures. But he quickly added, "We don't look at any underlying motivations for complaints. The only thing that is relevant is that we have people who are demanding that we enforce the law."

And what are the odds of resolving this latest conflict in Glen Park?

From the looks of an incident last month, they're pretty slim. Police posted one of Captain Bruce's "better articulated" signs, outlining the current leash and pooper-scooper laws and the fines for not obeying them.

Almost overnight, the sign was graffitied with the words "Courtesy of Lynn Estrella [and one other name]." The sign was removed the next day.

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Principal Can't Say Enough Good Things About Alvarado

By Denise Minor

It's easy to see why Alvarado Elementary School Principal Phyllis Matsuno wears comfortable shoes.

She dashes from classrooms to laboratories to the playground in short quick steps, propelled, it seems, by the excitement of being at the helm of one of the school district's rising stars.

"Excuse me," says Matsuno, abruptly stopping her explanation of the grant she just won to buy \$300 worth of books for every class in the school. She climbs to the top of the outdoor play structure to talk with a kindergartener who has pushed another child.

Matsuno gets down close to speak with the girl, then hugs her and climbs down the other side to escort her to a bench for a "time-out."

"Did I show you the arts room?" the principal asks a moment later, as if the conversation had never been interrupted.

Matsuno, 54, is not the only adult buzzing with energy at Alvarado, the brightly painted school on Douglass Street between Alvarado and 22nd. The teachers, the school counselor, and the aides all seem caught up in the feeling of being part of something good.

"We've seen a remarkable turnaround at Alvarado," said the district's public relations director, Gail Kaufman. "It previously was identified as a school that needed to improve and in 1993 was made part of our Comprehensive School Improvement Program [CSIP]."

Schools that are named CSIP participants are given resources to improve, and if they don't, they are eventually "reconstituted," meaning reshuffled from top to bottom, she said.

But Alvarado "graduated" from the program in just one year. In the past three years, hard-working parents and staff have turned a school with a rough reputation into an excellent arts, science, and Spanish immersion institution.

"Alvarado is an exemplary school. It's one of the most competitive to get into," said Kaufman.

The turnaround is one of the reasons Alvarado was picked in April by Superintendent Bill Rojas as the site to launch



Principal Phyllis Matsuno and students (left to right) Kelly, Rebecca, and Elizabeth check out the Alvarado home page on the Internet.
Photo by Beverly Tharp

his new computer donation program. The program will scout out corporations willing to donate used computers to the schools, some of which will be sent home with students who don't have one.

Matsuno credits her predecessor, Sande Leigh, with a large share of the metamorphosis at Alvarado. Lee implemented disciplinary measures that curbed the aggressive and disruptive behavior common in classrooms and on the playground at Alvarado.

Leigh also saw the incredible resource the school had in its 43 percent Latino population and began a Spanish immersion program for the kindergarten and first and second grades. Students are taught for the first part of the day in Spanish, then after lunch in English.

This year about half of the kindergarten and first- and second-grade classrooms are Spanish immersion. Only one third-grade class is Spanish immersion, but that might double next year.

"We're getting the overflow from Buena Vista," says Matsuno, referring to the popular alternative Spanish immersion school in the Mission District. "But our children in the immersion programs are doing even better than at Buena Vista."

Matsuno takes out a sheet showing that both English- and Spanish-speaking students at Alvarado scored higher than those at Buena Vista on the state's Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills last year.

"It's because we have such excellent teachers," she says matter-of-factly.

Matsuno offers a tour of the kindergarten and first-grade classrooms and randomly pulls out the "journals" the children write in regularly. The writing, in both Spanish and English, is very good.

State funds to reduce the number of students per class in the first three grades

have also helped considerably in raising the level of instruction, says Matsuno. At Alvarado, there are a maximum of 20 students per class in those three grades.

Matsuno then shows off Alvarado's science room, where Kerry Harrell is planning her next lesson on frozen ice balls.

Harrell proudly displays the five microscopes on loan from the Mission Science Center, as well as the intricate botanical illustrations that some of her students have drawn.

"We have had three science teachers here that have been awarded for being exemplary," says Matsuno. "People from all over the country have come to observe our science program."

The principal then escorts the *Voice* reporter to the fifth-grade classroom of teacher Ron Sousa. Dangling from the ceiling on strings are letters from the Portuguese pen pals Sousa lined up for his class when he was in Portugal last summer.

At various tables in the room, students are constructing a polyhedra village, a futuristic city made from geometric shapes.

In the hallways, Matsuno points out the fruits of labor of various student art projects. On one wall is a three-dimensional rain forest. Above one doorway is a giant spider web, which is home to beautifully crafted little spiders the students have made. Around it are more figures from an African folk tale about a spider.

One classroom is decorated with geometric balls that combine the art of origami, Japanese paper-folding, with that of Mexican piñatas.

The windows of the main staircase are brightly colored stained-glass art works donated to the school by professional artists. Outside on a wall of the playground is an intricate tile mosaic made by muralist Nancy Thompson.

"Alvarado is an arts-based school," says Matsuno. "You can see evidence of that everywhere."

Renowned Noe Valley artist Ruth Asawa launched the art education program at Alvarado three decades ago. Today her granddaughter, Lilli Lanier, comes to the school along with Kim Dang to teach art workshops to the children.

Fundraising by the Alvarado PTA also pays for classes taught by visual artist Jacqueline Reubens and dance artist Michael Koob. On the day the *Noe Valley Voice* visited, Reubens had just organized an exhibition by Alvarado students for the city's Youth Arts Festival.

"The parents at the school are extremely hard-working. It's because of them that we have dance, movement, and arts classes," says Matsuno. Parents also put out a school handbook and a newsletter.

Matsuno then leads the way to the resource room, where a reading teacher is testing a first-grade boy who in the fall had problems keeping up with his class. Children with reading problems are identified in first grade, given intensive tutoring to bring them up to speed, and then tested regularly.

"Oh, my gosh," said the teacher, holding up the page she just corrected. "He's over the top! He's reading at third-grade level."

Matsuno congratulates the boy, but he just squirms in his chair, apparently not comfortable with all the attention.

"We catch reading problems early," says Matsuno. "We don't want to let anyone fall through the cracks."

In a nearby room, counselor Nancy Hawkins is working on a grant proposal to keep her job funded. Near her are two sandboxes on tables and a dozen shelves filled with tiny figures of plants, people, animals, and cars. The sand and figures are the tools needed for "sand play," a technique for counseling children.

"It's a great tool for kids to work out their problems," says Hawkins, explaining that the children choose figures to arrange in the sand and then tell a story about what the figures are doing.

Besides counseling, Hawkins also organizes and trains the myriad of volunteers, interns, and student study teams at Alvarado.

Most district schools don't have a counselor and resource coordinator, says Matsuno, and she does not understand how they get along without one.

Hawkins and Matsuno briefly talk about a problem they are facing in the fall: the school will lose the majority of its

Continued on Page 10

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Alvarado Gets High Marks from New Principal

Continued from Page 9

African-American students because the Visitacion Valley housing where they live is being closed for renovation.

This year 19 percent of Alvarado's students are black, which is exactly the same proportion as in the city population. "We want the school to be as racially mixed as the city as a whole," says Matsuno.

She hopes to convince the district to give her another school bus, so she can offer enrollment to an area of Diamond Heights which is predominantly African American.

"But it's only a mile away, and the district won't give you a bus for a student population that close," she said. The mile is a hill, and too far for the youngest kids to walk.

The irony is that those families could be so much more involved in the school than families whose children are bused from miles away. "I'm working on it," Matsuno says with a definitive nod.

Hawkins brings up a similar issue. "We don't get many Asian children. I'd like to see that change."

Matsuno has tried, however, to give the students a glimpse of Asian culture. She keeps in close contact with Principal Liana Szeto of the Alice Fong Yu Chinese immersion school on 12th Avenue. The Alice Fong Yu students came to Alvarado dressed in dragon costumes to present a parade for this year's Chinese New Year.

Alvarado's students went to Alice Fong Yu to present a parade for Cinco de Mayo. "We plan to continue this collaborative arrangement," says Matsuno.

The two women met while attending a program the district developed to train its principals.

For Matsuno, the training was the culmination of years of professional and volunteer work in San Francisco schools. She started two decades ago as a member of the Noe Valley Co-op Nursery School, based at the Noe Valley Ministry on Sanchez Street.

She and her husband, Kinya Matsuno, wanted to stay closely involved with the education of their three children, Michael, Miwa, and Mitchell.

Later, she became a parent volunteer at Alvarado. "My kids came to school here. We lived just across the street on 22nd," says Matsuno.

She then shifted into high gear and co-founded the Japanese immersion program at Clarendon Elementary School. "We had to fight for the program. It was over the dead body of the superintendent at that time," says Matsuno. "Now it is very popular."

(Matsuno speaks Japanese as well as Spanish, which she learned while serving in the Peace Corps in Honduras.)

Matsuno went on to become a para-professional aide at schools, and finally completed her teaching credential at San Francisco State University. Until this year, she worked as a reading and resource teacher at Paul Revere Elementary School in Bernal Heights.

Last year she completed the training to be a principal, and the day before school started last fall she was assigned to Alvarado. "It was so hard at first. I was working Saturdays, Sundays, and nights," she recalls.

But she's thrilled that she was handed what she considers a choice assignment.

"This is an extraordinary school, and it's because of the teachers and parents," says Matsuno.

"I feel very honored to be here." □

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Considering a Career as a Mortician?

By Rayne Wolfe

Like the funeral parlors of the Old West whose plate-glass windows reflected the swinging doors of the saloon across the street, the San Francisco College of Mortuary Science is only a stone's throw from O'Greenberg's bar at 29th and Dolores streets.

And like the undertakers of Dodge City who magically materialized after each gunfight, today's morticians are still right there when we need them.

"Everybody dies at 3:30 in the morning!" says Mortuary College President Jacquie Taylor, throwing up her hands. "Sometimes the family wants the funeral the next day. We work hard. We work weekends and holidays. It's the wrong profession for anyone who doesn't like to work hard."

Taylor is funny and direct. She is also focused on maintaining the national reputation her school enjoys. "Our students come here because they are looking for earning power and stability, and because they want an opportunity to serve the community," she says.

More than 5,000 graduates have passed through the school's doors since the first two students took their chairs on Jan. 6, 1930. The college was formerly located on Post Street, but moved to 1598 Dolores four years ago.

The classrooms and offices take up the top floor of the Reilly Company Funeral Home, a neighborhood institution still personally managed by owners Jack Scannell and Bob Goodwin.



Jacquie Taylor was one of a handful of women who graduated from the San Francisco College of Mortuary Science in the 1970s. But now many women choose the field.

According to Taylor, students can earn an associate degree in one to two years, depending on whether they have any prior academic credits. They take courses not only in anatomy, chemistry, microbiology, and embalming, but in business, communications, psychology, sociology, and ethics. In addition, they apprentice with a licensed funeral director.

The college also runs its own public mortuary — College Chapel Mortuary. But unlike barber colleges that offer cheap haircuts "at your own risk," College Chapel offers low-cost funerals under the highest professional standards.

A medium-range funeral through a regular mortuary, Taylor notes, costs about \$4,300. At College Chapel, low-income clients pay \$500 for the same service.

"It's really win-win for everyone," Taylor says. "Our students see to every



The 67-year-old Mortuary College, now residing within the Reilly Co. funeral home on Dolores Street, contains a small museum featuring vintage funeral clothes and authentic bones for study.

Photos by Charles Kennard

"Everybody dies at 3:30 in the morning! Sometimes the family wants the funeral the next day. We work hard. We work weekends and holidays. It's the wrong profession for anyone who doesn't like to work hard."

single detail, by the book. They offer state-of-the-art service and really care about their clients."

That caring shows from the moment a funeral service begins, when someone is stationed at the curb to hand out the plastic "Funeral" signs for car dashboards. A greeter then opens the heavy double doors and directs family and friends to the proper chapel.

The building itself — a stately Romanesque structure built in 1929 — feels "comfy" in the way an old movie theater seems like an oasis, or a library offers sanctuary from a too-busy world. Strains of Debussy wash over the Art Deco-inspired carpet. Hollywood-Moorish electric candelabras cast a soft glow.

The main floor holds the Reilly Company's reception area, the viewing rooms (what the industry used to call "slumber rooms"), three chapels (small, medium, and large), and a casket display room. A chrome Westinghouse water fountain with a Dixie cup dispenser hums near club chairs. An old-fashioned telephone booth offers privacy.

The chapels are welcoming in their simplicity. In each one, the first-row pew for family members has been replaced with an upholstered couch. "The families often stay a long time, and this is more comfortable for them," Taylor explains.

The upstairs, which once served as the original Reilly family home, now contains classrooms and offices. A crystal chandelier that once lit a parlor now sparkles over an anatomy class. Another classroom is flanked by a deep slate fireplace. The woodwork throughout is honey blond and polished.

The process of embalming, says Taylor, is a simple matter of pumping diluted formaldehyde into the body for purposes of preservation, disinfection, and restoration. The average body requires two to three gallons of embalming fluid. The chrome machine holding the mixture in a glass reservoir looks like a mutant Osterizer from Mom's kitchen.

Some bodies arrive somewhat desiccated, and a little "plumping up" with fluids works visual wonders. The other

Taylor, a '70s graduate herself, recalls the early days of her tenure as president, when mortuary owners were often looking to hire "strong" graduates — a euphemism for "men-only." But, she says, "it's not like that anymore. When I retire, I will retire knowing that I've helped to create an equal-opportunity profession. I'm proud of that."

Taylor is equally proud of the facility itself and is happy to give a tour. In the mini-museum upstairs, a glass display case holds pristine vintage funeral clothes, shoes, and religious burial costumes. Another case holds oversized plastic teaching replicas of eyes, brains, and heads, as well as a few real bones, including a dusty spine that snakes along the bottom shelf.

Nearby, a one-of-a-kind sales display features a doll-sized casket on a pneumatic lift that lowers into a small tank of water. It bears the sales pitch "The Champion Air Seal Steel Grave Vault — The Ultimate in Protection."

Downstairs, double sliding doors warn visitors that they have entered an out-of-bounds area, starting at the door where bodies are brought in from the covered garage. From here they're taken to the prep rooms, and, finally, into the embalming room. This room, dominated by two slightly tilted porcelain tables, is where most of the real work takes place. Staff and students are bathed in white light pouring down through the many skylights.

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Some bodies arrive somewhat desiccated, and a little "plumping up" with fluids works visual wonders. The other

cosmetic touchups are remarkably straightforward, right down to using the same shampoos available at the corner drugstore. Modern undertakers refer to the process of preparing the body as "creating a memory picture."

In another room in the mortuary, three large neatly labeled cardboard boxes sit on gurneys awaiting delivery to local crematoriums.

Sixty percent of Californians choose traditional burial, but the demand for cremations has grown steadily since 1876, when the Theosophists held the first cremation in America in New York City.

Today, the funeral industry considers burial versus cremation simply a matter of personal preference.

"We offer chapel services and transfer of the body to a crematory, if that's what the family wants," says Taylor. "As undertakers, we are here to support the family and carry out their wishes."

When all is said and done, Taylor and her students would probably dispute Clint Eastwood's claim in *The Outlaw Josie*



Embalming student Wayne Holman creates a "memory picture" by using a wide palette of cosmetics.

Wales that "dying ain't much of a living."

"I never forget, even for a moment, that we are privileged to help people during a time of tremendous stress and heartbreak," Taylor says. "People guess that this work is depressing. It isn't, really. If anything, it's rewarding."

For more information on the San Francisco College of Mortuary Science, call the school at 824-1313. The summer semester begins Monday, June 9. Tuition for the associate of arts degree in funeral directing and embalming is \$9,600, plus \$1,000 for books and equipment.



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POLICE B E A T

Before and After The Fatal Accident On 24th Street

By Officer Lois Perillo

A 29-year-old man was killed after the stolen truck he was driving crashed into an unoccupied Toyota Land Cruiser on 24th near Diamond Street. (See Page 1.)

According to the medical examiner, the man had an alcohol level of .17 percent, twice the legal limit of .08 percent, at the time of his death. No drugs were detected in his blood. No one else was injured in the accident.

For me, the incident began on May 12 at 3:12 p.m., when I received a call about a man vandalizing a car and attempting to break into another car on 23rd Street near Diamond. When I arrived at the intersection, a witness told me he had just seen a man tear a climbing plant from its trellis while ranting as he walked up 23rd Street. "Be careful," the witness said. I advised Dispatch and rode up the hill on my bike, searching for the suspect.

When I didn't locate him, I returned to 23rd and Diamond and spoke with the woman who'd originally phoned police. She said she'd seen a man kick her car and try to break into another nearby car.

At that point, Dispatch informed me that a man matching the suspect's description had just broken into a truck parked on Hoffman near Elizabeth and stolen a jacket.

As I began riding up the hill again, Dispatch broadcast a car accident at 24th and Diamond, described as a "rollover." Officers Pam Wanek and Jim Escobar were responding to the scene.

Needing to climb the hill faster, I commandeered a van and its driver, who drove me quickly (and safely) to Hoffman, where a witness told me he'd first encountered the suspect sitting on his front steps and smelling of alcohol. The witness said the suspect invited him to "call me in" to police.

As the witness phoned from inside his house, he heard a smash of glass breaking and exited to see his truck's rear win-

dow broken and a green Adidas jacket missing from inside the truck. A neighbor told him that the window-smasher had headed south on Hoffman to 24th Street.

Meanwhile, something told me to go to the accident scene. When I arrived, I found that the driver of a 30-year-old pickup truck had been fatally injured after he crashed into a parked car, pushing it up the sidewalk into the front of a house.

In the collision, the truck had flipped over and spun 180 degrees. Its truck bed had ejected from the chassis and slid across the westbound lane, stopping six inches from several parked cars.

Though the Fire Department and paramedics tried to resuscitate the driver, he did not respond, and the medical examiner was called in to pronounce death.

Since the driver had been draped with a cover before I got there, I did not see him until the medical examiner arrived. Still, he appeared to match the description of the suspect in the earlier vandalism and auto boosts. Then when I looked inside the truck, I saw a green Adidas jacket.

Next I spoke with a woman who lived on Fountain who was the owner of the old pickup truck. Minutes before the accident, she'd parked her car and exited with the keys. Next thing she knew, the truck was gone and emergency vehicle sirens were blaring. She walked down 24th Street to find a body lying near her now destroyed truck. At the corner of the flipped-over truck bed, she saw a small piece of her black leather jacket, sticking out between the pavement and the bed.

The crowd of onlookers who assembled that day know that handling this case involved the cooperative efforts of dozens of city employees. Paramedics rendered medical aid to the driver. Patrol officers directed traffic and cordoned off the scene with yellow tape. A Fire Department crew spread sand over leaking vehicle fuel. The medical examiner inventoried the dead man's possessions, and placed him in a bag for transport to the morgue.

Hit and Run Inspector Patrick Tobin gathered evidence and spoke with witnesses. A crime scene photographer made a visual record. Police motorcycle officers interviewed witnesses and measured the street to create an accident diagram. Mission Station Captain Gregory Suhr also arrived to assess the scene.

Tow truck drivers used four tow trucks to cart off the damaged vehicles: a large flat bed for the 30-year-old pickup, another flat bed to transport the separated truck bed, a third tow truck to hoist the truck bed onto the flat bed; and a fourth to haul the damaged Land Cruiser.

Many local residents saw things unfold. I periodically explained the accident, asking the children if they had any questions. Most kids stopped for only a short time, but there were two young girls who stayed until the washdown, despite my gentle encouragement that they go home and do their homework.

The definition of an accident is an unplanned event, and implicit in that definition is a loss of control. But was this an accident? What was on the driver's mind?

We'll never know his exact intent. But we do know that we were lucky. Given the steepness of the hill and the busy corner—with a bus stop, a cafe, a laundromat, a takeout, even a nearby school—I am grateful and amazed at how limited the harm to the community was.

Pedestrian Hit the Next Day

On a sunny Tuesday, May 13, at about 3 p.m., a 68-year-old woman was walking east across Sanchez Street in the crosswalk at 24th Street when she was struck by a car.

According to paramedics, she sustained injuries to her left ankle and shoulder. Although she was in pain, the woman was responsive and remained conscious during the on-site evaluation. The Jersey Street resident was taken to S.F. General Hospital for treatment.

The car was driven by a 62-year-old man who told me he'd stopped at the 24th Street westbound stop sign and signalled left. As he turned south on Sanchez, he felt an impact on the right side of his car. He said he didn't see the woman until after he hit her.

The driver stopped and exited his car, but was so distraught he sat down at the curb and put his head in his hands. A physician stopped to assist him and remained with him during the investigation. The driver repeatedly expressed his concern for the woman's recovery.

Many people stopped to help, and numerous witnesses remained to give me their statements. Thanks to all involved.

Woman Mugged at Castro and 24th

Four robberies occurred within my area of Noe Valley in April. The first robbery on April 1 at Walgreens was reported in last month's *Voice*. After the incident, robbery inspectors placed money with a radio transmitter—"rat money"—in the till, so they could track the robbers should

they dare to strike again.

Two other local robberies, both occurring between 3:30 and 4:30 in the afternoon, involved juvenile victims from nearby James Lick Middle School. In the first incident, on April 15, a 12-year-old boy was robbed of his jacket by slightly older boys riding bicycles. In the second, on April 21, another 12-year-old was robbed of money by several possible 18-year-olds whose faces were covered and who fled in a black car.

In the last and by far the most serious robbery in April, a woman reported to me May 2 that on April 24 at 10:30 p.m., after leaving the Peaks bar at 1316 Castro St., she was hit on the head by an unseen suspect while waiting for the bus at the southeast corner of Castro and 24th streets. The mugger smashed her in the head with a glass bottle, which shattered, leaving her unconscious, and then robbed her of her rent money.

The 49-year-old woman suffered a concussion, contusions to her left eye and neck, and lacerations to her head and chest. She managed to walk back to the Peaks, where she got assistance. She subsequently was seen by Noe Valley doctors Michael McFadden and John Pierce.

Currently, we have no leads. Anyone with information regarding this incident, please contact me or an inspector in the Robbery Division, 553-1201, regarding case number 970609853.

Graffiti Tagger Collared

On April 23 at 3 p.m., several people saw a 13-year-old boy write on a building on the 4300 block of 24th Street, using marker and spray paint. A 44-year-old witness chased the boy about three blocks, to the 400 block of Jersey.

Police responded and took custody of the alleged tagger, who was an eighth-grade student at James Denman Middle School. He was subsequently booked into Youth Guidance Center.

Until next time, let's watch out for one another. See you on patrol. □

Community Police Officer Lois Perillo, joined by partner Lorraine Lombardo, covers a beat bounded by Grand View, 21st, Valencia, and Cesar Chavez streets. To contact her about a neighborhood problem, call 558-5404. Or visit or write Mission Police Station at 630 Valencia St. (near 17th), San Francisco, CA 94110.

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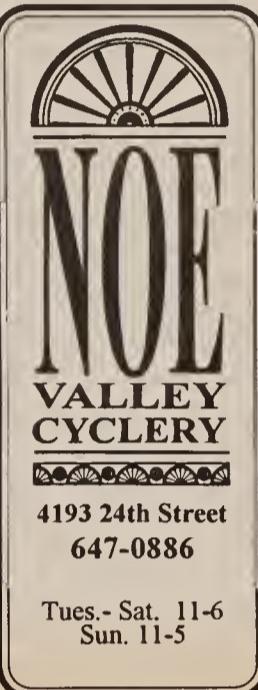


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Let BYLINES Be BYLINES

Noe Valley Newcomer Likes His Chances

By Jeff Troiano

My dog Toby and I find beauty and meaning in happenstance. The appearance of pigeons, the keys we just found, the detours and sudden rainstorms, all seem to be messages to guide our way. Life has its own agenda.

I recently prodded a Hertz-Penske rental truck across the western U.S. to get to Noe Valley. After 13 years in Houston, Toby and I eased into rush-hour traffic at 6:30 a.m. on a Wednesday and headed west. The trip was dust, heat, cacti, bitter coffee, crosswinds, maddeningly slow gas pumps, curious stares, sand spurs, grimy convenience stores, scary bathroom facilities, and beautiful vistas. Roadkill, credit cards, then California. I'll never forget Hale-Bopp from the desert.

Exhaustion had begun to take its toll when, near San Jose, I actually considered giving Toby a turn at the wheel. I came to my senses, caught a second wind, and pushed on through. We chugged into San Francisco late Friday afternoon. That was my rental truck blocking the sidewalk on Church Street at 26th. Sorry for the inconvenience.

I had time on my hands that first week. San Francisco employers hadn't lined up to greet me, and my resume was in a state of disarray. Toby and I spent those first few days roaming Noe Valley, checking out the coffeehouses, eating bagels, reading everything locally published, and getting to know the lay of the land.

But when the words "Noe Valley Ministry" began appearing with alarming frequency, the dog and I thought we'd better pay attention: A poster announced an interesting dance recital—taking place at the Noe Valley Ministry at 1021 Sanchez St. A friend told me of a great performance by singer Jonathan Richman that he'd seen—at the Noe Valley Ministry. The yoga classes I'd considered taking were being offered—at the Ministry. Even this publication shares an address with the Noe Valley Ministry. Hmmmm.

Week two and still no job on the horizon. A new friend (met during a chance encounter) called to say that Christmas in April, the nonprofit organization dedicated to refurbishing the homes of the elderly, disabled, and disadvantaged, as well as critically important community centers, needed volunteers. Christmas in April, she explained, would be a great way to meet people while contributing to my new city. I said, "Sign me up."

Naturally, the Noe Valley Ministry had been selected as Christmas in April's next beneficiary. I discovered that the organization, in conjunction with neighbor/donor Bruce Bell and San Francisco Beautiful, had already blessed the Ministry with a major renovation of the church's interior a year ago. Ninety volunteers descended upon the dilapidated structure and pumped new life into it. A desperately needed new roof was raised. Peeling paint was scraped and reapplied. Woodwork was repaired. New signage sporting a new logo was donated by a graphics design firm.

Let Bylines Be Bylines

The Noe Valley Voice welcomes your essays, opinion pieces, and other reflections on people and places in Noe Valley. Please mail manuscripts, which should be typed, double-spaced, and fewer than 1,000 words, to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. We'd appreciate a phone number, too. Thanks.

Now color glows from freshly painted walls. New carpeting softens one's step. New signage tastefully directs visitors through 16 rooms. And rain no longer seeps through the ceilings.

Christmas in April's focus this season was to be on the Ministry's exterior. The cracked sidewalk that met Sanchez Street would be jackhammered, the concrete removed and then repaved. A grant from San Francisco Beautiful would extricate sickly shrubs and replace them with vibrant young plants. More signage would be installed.

The work, though not as visibly dramatic as last year's effort, proved to be just as challenging.

"Had I known what was truly involved in replacing a sidewalk, we probably would never have taken this on," said Dawn Summers, coordinator for the renovation. "What we thought would be a one-day event turned into a very intense three-day project."

Barry Taylor, a Christmas in April volunteer who owns and operates a furniture company, was handed a jackhammer and asked to blast some concrete, a task he'd never attempted. "My body hurts all over," he said. "But it's a good hurt, knowing how this community will benefit from our work."

Jean Amos, a Noe Valley garden specialist, volunteered with Christmas in April as part of her ongoing association with the Ministry. "I give my time, I give my money, because I love the Ministry," she explained. "What Christmas in April has done here is truly noble. It's a tremendous push toward completing this project."

The Noe Valley business community supported the renovation as well. A score of generous retailers contributed to the project. Tuggee's Hardware, for example, donated a large glass window—twice. "Tuggee's was kind enough to donate the window—which broke during installation," said Summers. "We went back to them, told them our story, and they graciously donated another piece of glass. We were much more careful the second time around."

What's left to do?

In the coming weeks new lighting will be installed to illuminate the stained glass on the church's facade. A sprinkler system will be integrated into the landscaped areas. New banners will be draped from front windows, proclaiming the Ministry a "House of Prayer" and a "House of Community."

"The Noe Valley Ministry has so much to offer," said Summers. "But we depend on the participation—and support—of the community. Without Christmas in April and our donors, and every single volunteer, none of this would have come to pass."

Happenstance led me to Noe Valley and introduced me to the Ministry. More of the same directed me to Christmas in April. Considering all of my good fortune, I guess I'll continue to take my chances. □

Jeff Troiano, 36, writes fiction from his apartment on Church Street.

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Let Bylines Be BYLINES

St. Paul's at the Millennium

By Joseph Metzgar

Noe Valley has a treasure, something precious, something priceless. Noe Valley has St. Paul's.

St. Paul's Church, the twin-spired wonder at Church and Valley streets, is one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture on the Pacific Coast. When Father Michael Connolly began construction of St. Paul's in 1897, he and his parishioners probably never realized how enchanting and enduring a church they would bequeath future generations.

The architect Frank T. Shea, the "Church Builder of San Francisco," supplied the plans and architectural expertise. Father Connolly, in turn, assumed the role of contractor. Connolly considered bids, studied estimates, oversaw purchases, supervised construction, and got his hands dirty with the rest of the crew. Nearly every able-bodied man in the parish contributed his labor.

Connolly also adopted a pay-as-you-go policy, based on fundraising efforts such as contests, raffles, and bazaars. Those efforts assured that the church would be debt-free upon its completion. Indeed, the construction took well over a decade to complete, but when St. Paul's was dedicated on May 29, 1911, Noe Valley and San Francisco had acquired a Gothic masterpiece.

St. Paul's is built of granite taken from a one-time quarry near 30th and Castro, plus some rubble and curbstones from the 1906 Earthquake. The granite, chipped and hewn into blocks by workers at the building site, gives the church a solid monumental appearance.

The church represents the American Gothic revival of the late 19th century. It was built with a traditional cruciform layout (based on the Christian cross) and has certain distinctive features such as an outside porch with heavy pillar supports. A statue of St. Paul—the traveling "Apostle to the Gentiles"—stands in a recess at the apex of the facade. There are dormers jutting from the sloping roof and a pinnacled turret at the crossing.

St. Paul's two unequal spires, which can be seen from almost any part of the neighborhood, are made of complex frames of wood covered with slate. Ornamental buds called "crockets," typical of the English decorated style, adorn the spires, giving them a more natural,



Construction of St. Paul's, the Gothic masterpiece on Church Street, was started in 1897. One hundred years and two major earthquakes later, the church needs another lift from its Noe Valley family.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

budding-of-spring look. Another typical feature is the Gothic arch, which graces both the exterior and interior.

In contrast to the rather cold stone facade, the interior of the building, which is predominantly wood, elicits feelings of warmth and spirituality. It welcomes worshippers and visitors as if to the womb of "Mother Church."

When you enter from the vestibule, you see the main altar directly ahead. The vertical lines of the surrounding architecture then lead your eyes upwards, ever upwards. Wooden ribs stretch from the capitals of several bundled piers rising from the floor and reach to the soaring ridges of the vaulted ceiling at the top. Finally, the tall, colorful stained-glass windows suffice the interior with a warm soft light.

The main altar, sculpted in Carrara marble, was imported from Italy. The arched stained-glass windows, many with decorative bar tracery, came from Munich, Germany. The fine wood pulpit, imported from Germany as well, repeats the budded crocket design on its own miniature pinnacles. It also is encircled with sculptures of prelates, including St. Peter carrying the "Keys of the Kingdom."

Above the choir loft and the main entrance, the church boasts a magnificent rose window. Two smaller rose windows grace the far ends of each arm of the transept.

According to a 1980 history written by John H. McGuckin Jr., the total cost of the original construction was

\$260,000—a figure that would translate roughly into \$5 million today.

By the time Father Mario Farana became pastor of St. Paul's in the summer of 1993, the Archdiocese of San Francisco was threatening to close the church and sell off its satellite school and convent buildings. The church had been ordered to retrofit all of its buildings, to meet new seismic standards following the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake. But the high costs of renovation were causing the whole parish to shake.

(Interestingly, the church building survived both the 1906 and 1989 earthquakes with minor damage, mostly of a cosmetic nature. Perhaps this was due to the "iron core" reinforcement of the interior pillars, described in one early print source.)

In any case, in 1994 Father Mario initiated efforts to save the church. Eventually—after many consultations with the archbishop and with the architect hired to do the work—the parish decided to demolish the old elementary school at the corner of 29th and Church streets and construct a new school building at the same site, while at the same time retrofitting its jewel, St. Paul's church.

Architect Michael Stanton met personally with parishioners to discuss the new plans. Consultant Christine Dohrmann came on board to help raise the necessary funds. Meanwhile, Sister Maureen O'Brien, a nun who taught at St. Paul's High School for many years, launched the on-site campaign.

Nowadays, Sister Maureen reports St.

Paul's is halfway toward its goal of \$7.8 million, which includes \$4.6 million for the school and \$3.2 million for the church. The money has come from gifts, pledges, the sale of parish property, and a grant from the archdiocese. A lot more must be raised, however. "Yes," Sister Maureen says, "we do need additional support. You've heard the old saying that the first million is the hardest to raise. I say the last \$2.5 are the hardest."

In 1897, Father Connolly, Frank Shea, and Noe Valley workers and parishioners began construction of St. Paul's church. Today, a hundred years later, Father Mario Farana, Sister Maureen O'Brien, the architect Michael Stanton, parishioners, and neighborhood contributors will soon begin "reconstruction" of St. Paul's.

To be a part of history, call Sister Maureen at 648-0442.

Noe Valley writer Joseph Metzgar is a former professor of American cultural history at the University of Nevada, Reno.

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P185/75R14	\$49.99	P205/70R14	\$55.99
P205/75R14	\$50.99	P215/70R14	\$57.99
P205/75R14	\$52.99		
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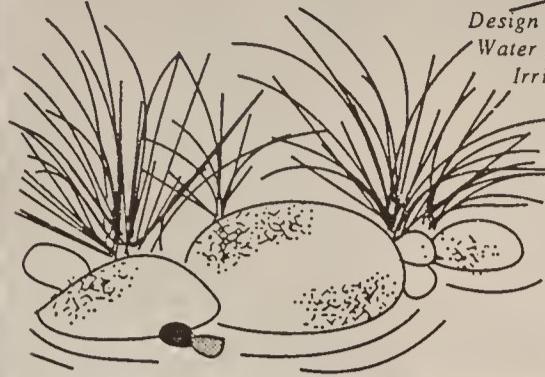
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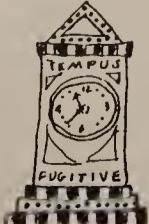
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SHORT TAKES

Passport to Good Health

Starting Monday, June 9, the 30th Street Senior Center is sponsoring its second annual Passport to Health Week, featuring a series of health screenings, lectures, and activities for seniors 60 and over.

The schedule for the week runs as follows: June 9, the taking and recording of vital signs, along with a talk on the relationship between mental health and physical health; June 10, "What's for Breakfast?", a lecture on good nutrition; June 11, blood glucose screening and a lecture on the management of diabetes; June 12, cholesterol screening and a talk on cholesterol; June 13, a discussion of the benefits of exercise, followed by a group walk around the neighborhood.

The event is first-come, first-served, and participants must preregister at the senior center during the week of June 2 (any day between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.). A \$3 donation is asked to help cover expenses.

Thirtieth Street Senior Services is located at 225 30th St. near Dolores. For information call Jorge Santos at 550-2210.

Teacher of the Year

Douglas Street resident Patricia Crowley was recently selected as the Bay Region's 1997 Teacher of the Year by the California Association for the Gifted. The award is given each year to California educators, in recognition of their excellence and professional expertise.

Crowley was among 11 teachers representing different regions of the state honored at a special ceremony in March.

A teacher of gifted fourth- and fifth-grade immigrant students at Redding Elementary School here in the city, Crowley has pioneered the integration of visual and performing arts into the school curriculum. She also helped develop a handbook for a project called Learning Through Education in the Arts.

Honors are nothing new to Crowley. She was named Teacher of the Year by the



Her students planned and prepared a luncheon to honor Patricia Crowley, after she was named the Bay Area's 1997 Teacher of the Year by the California Association for the Gifted.

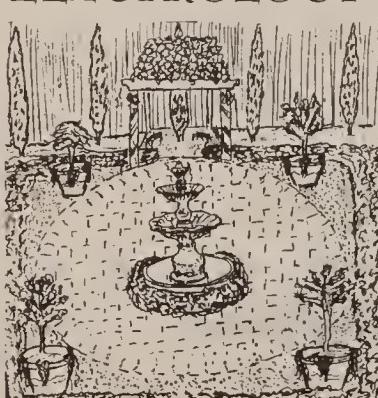
San Francisco School District in 1986, and has received numerous commendations for her work with gifted children. Asked for the secret of her success, she said, "Every day I go to work thinking this is the best job in the world, because every single day is new and challenging. I never come to school with a negative attitude. I'm always upbeat and positive."

She tries to instill the same attitude in her students, and to inspire them to "never be afraid to reach for the stars."

Crowley is the daughter of the late Jeremiah and Nora Crowley of Noe Valley. She has lived in the neighborhood since she was 10 years old, and attended St. Philip's Elementary School from the fifth to eighth grades.



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For more information about "An Evening Way Off Broadway" and to buy tickets, call the church at 647-8393. Worship services at Bethany Church, 1268 Clipper St., are held Sundays at 11 a.m.

A Guitar Jam to H.E.A.R.

The Professor Sludge Guitar Academy presents its Adult Student All-Stars in a performance at Above Paradise, 308 11th St., on Sunday, June 1, at 4 p.m. Donations will be accepted at the concert to benefit H.E.A.R. (Hearing Education and Awareness for Rockers).

Students will strut their stuff in a range of styles, from Rolling Stones and rockabilly, to blues, surf, and psychedelic rock. They will be joined by Professor Sludge himself, along with John "Chauncey" Seabury, of the legendary East Bay garage band Psychotic Pineapple.

For years, Professor Sludge—aka Eric Lenchner—has taught guitar and bass out of the Noe Valley Music store on 24th Street. His Guitar Academy has been presenting "kids and teens" student concerts at the Noe Valley Ministry since 1994.

Lenchner was founder of the instrumental rock-surf combo the Ultras. He also played guitar for the Readymades (1977-79) and the Dinos (1987-94). For the scoop on the concert, call 239-5390.

Teen Scavenger Hunt

Name three books set in San Francisco neighborhoods. What's the weirdest thing on the bulletin board in your local laundromat? What's the name of one person buried in the cemetery at the old Mis-

Continued on Page 20

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5. **Linguine Verde** Onion, Zucchini, Spinach and Artichoke Hearts in Pesto Sauce
6. **Linguine Margherita** Fresh Tomato, Basic, Garlic, Crushed Red Pepper and chunks of White Mozzarella Cheese—Lite Red Sauce
7. **Linguine Toscana** Chicken Strips, Grilled Zucchini, Onion, Mushroom, Capers and Roasted Garlic—Lite Red Sauce
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SHORT TAKES

Continued from Page 19

sion Dolores? And how many palm trees are on that block?

If you're a teen 14 to 18 (or entering high school in the fall) and think you'd have fun answering these questions, then get involved in the San Francisco Library's first-ever summer reading program for teens, "Streets of San Francisco."

The program, which runs from June 7 to July 19, will resemble a giant scavenger hunt, sending participants out not only to read books but to hit the streets of San Francisco in pursuit of a wide range of activities. The activities will lead to lots of prizes, including books, movie passes, and gift certificates, plus a Big Prize to be raffled off at the Grand Finale on July 25 at the Main Library.

All you have to do to receive your first prize is read three books and enjoy three activities from the library's list. The more you read and do, the more prizes you win.

For specific rules and guidelines, Noe Valley teens should hop the streetcar down to the Main Library at Civic Center, or drop by any of seven participating library branches. (The closest to Noe Valley are Glen Park and Bernal Heights.)

Or teens can attend a kickoff celebration at the Visitacion Valley Library on Friday, June 6, 3:30 p.m., or at Bayview Library on Saturday, June 7, 3 p.m. For details call Eleanor Shapiro at 557-4277.

Summer School Needs YOU

Summer school begins June 23, and more than 50 public schools in San Francisco are looking for volunteer help.

Those schools nearest to Noe Valley include the Harvey Milk and Mission Education Center elementary schools, and James Lick, Everett, and Horace Mann middle schools. Mission High School and McAteer High's School for Business and Commerce also need volunteers.

Classes are taught from 8:30 a.m. to noon, and summer school runs until July 21. Volunteers must commit to at least

one hour a week, either in class or one-on-one. Spanish-speakers are welcome.

All the schools need help with English and math. To find out each school's specific needs, call San Francisco School Volunteers at 274-0250. After school ends on June 5, teachers will begin calling in with more detailed requests.

Gardens Open Their Gates

For the past two decades public garden projects have been sprouting up all over the city. They include community gardens, school gardens, market gardens, job-training gardens, and agricultural plots.

In an effort to promote and support these projects, a coalition of organizations led by the San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners (SLUG) is sponsoring its fourth annual Open Garden Day on Saturday, June 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

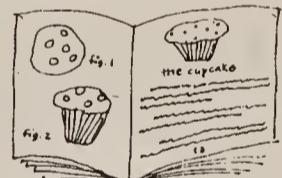
Participating gardens throughout the Bay Area will offer tours, plants for sale, workshops, food and beverages, and information on how to create more community gardens.

Among the Open Gardens closest to Noe Valley are the Alioto Community Garden at 20th and Capp streets, the Children's Day School Farm and Garden at Dolores and 16th, Crags Court Garden off Diamond Heights Boulevard, and Potrero Del Sol Community Garden in La Raza Park at Cesar Chavez and Potrero.

For a complete list and map, contact the Center for Urban Education About Sustainable Agriculture at (510) 526-2788.

For information on walking and bicycle tours, and on the vans that will be taking visitors to most of the gardens, call SLUG at (415) 285-7584.

This month's Short Takes were compiled and written by Jane Underwood.



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A Bird's Paradise at The Animal Company

By Joseph Metzgar

What do an Orange-Cheeked Waxbill, a Pearl Scale Amandine, a Queen Shaft-tail Whydah, and Squirt the Canary have in common? They're all chirping over the 20th anniversary of the Animal Company, Noe Valley's own nesting site for exotic birds at 4298 24th St.

In the summer of 1977, Gary Thompson and Victor Baciarini, who once worked together as employees in retail sales, bought Lee's Tropicals, a fish store at the corner of Douglass and 24th streets. They renamed it the Animal Company, and began learning how to run a pet sales and supplies business from the ground up. They also shifted the store's specialty from fish to birds.

Although Thompson was, and still is, a "hardcore dog person," he warmed up to birds fast. "I was introduced to birds by friends, and I became fascinated with them. Birds have such distinct personalities—I was just smitten."

He and Baciarini attended seminars, read books, and slowly acquired a large inventory of exotic and domestic birds. Canaries became their top seller, followed by cockatiels and parakeets.

"Their song is a tremendous reward," Thompson says, pointing to his chorus of yellow canaries. "They can really turn a house into a home." They also require minimal care, he says, and, like most birds, provoke fewer allergies in their owners than do dogs or cats.



Angela Fonda's 4-year-old cockatoo Kiwi gets a regular wing trim from "Dr. Gary" Thompson of the Animal Company on 24th Street.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

In the early days, Thompson recalls, "wild-caught" tropical birds from Central and South America and Africa were the only exotics available. Parrots, he says, arrived in the United States "in terrible condition."

For this reason, back in 1982 he and Baciarini developed their own bird nursery, where they could hand-raise and hand-feed the flock. They also decided to stop importing birds from other countries. Today, every bird they sell is either hand-nurtured by them or by some other bird lover in the United States.

On Sundays and Mondays from noon to 4 p.m., Thompson conducts a bird clinic. People from all over the Bay Area line up to have "Dr. Gary" clip the wings or nails of their cockatiels, African Greys, Scarlet Macaws, and canaries. He also offers customers advice on the care, feeding, and general health of their birds.

When you watch Thompson trimming wings and applying medications, it's easy to see the affection he has for his feathered friends.

With a bigger bird, for example, he'll wrap it in a towel—for his and the bird's own comfort and safety—then gently clip the feathers, while verbally reassuring the bird *and* the owner. "Sometimes," he chuckles, "it's more difficult for the owner than the bird to go through this process."

Parrots, especially, demand sensitive care and attention, Thompson says. "They're very bright and require a lot of stimulation." But if you work away from home, he adds, they'll still be happy, as long as you leave them with plenty of toys and food and water, and give them lots of TLC after you return. Talking to them helps a lot. And of course, they'll talk back, "which is a great reward in itself."

African Greys talk more than any other parrot, says Thompson, and therefore sell for around \$900. But the price is dropping, he notes, because the birds are doing so well in captivity. Rarer birds, such as the Rose-Breasted Cockatoo and Brazilian Hyacinth Macaw, cost any-

where from \$2,500 to \$10,000.

The Animal Company seldom keeps such high-priced parrots, however, preferring to sell those in the \$500 to \$1,000 bracket.

Meanwhile, the birds that really fly out the door—finches, parakeets, canaries, and cockatiels—go for \$7.50 to \$90.

Thompson and Baciarini have seen Noe Valley change considerably in 20 years. In 1977, the area surrounding their business was a "parochial school neighborhood" consisting of older Irish and German families whose children had grown. But the real estate boom of the early '80s caused an influx of younger working couples and singles, many with babies and pets.

Thompson, 50, a native of Canada, and Baciarini, 74, who was raised in Suisun City, Calif., like the current mix. "It's a terribly supportive neighborhood," says Thompson. "The best part of being in Noe Valley is getting to know the customers. They know our names, and we know theirs."

Since the shop is only a few steps from Noe Courts park and V.I.P. Grooming, the Animal Company is well acquainted with the neighborhood's dogs, who drop by for Science Diet, a new leash or frisbee, or one of the free jerky treats given to every dog that visits. "They come running ahead of their owners," says Thompson, "just to get their little gift."

The store sells a full range of food and supplies for cats, too. And there's a selection of freshwater fish, frogs, newts, bearded dragons (Australian lizards), and sweet-tempered female rats.

But birds are the main attraction, and a new crop of spring babies is keeping Thompson and Baciarini busy in the nursery these days.

If you'd like to say hello, drop by the store Monday through Saturday, 10 to 6, or on Sundays, 12 to 5. □

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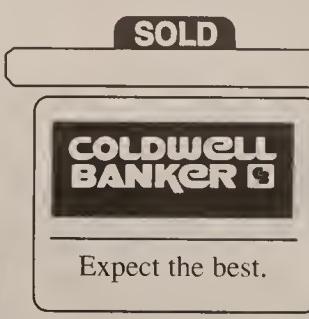
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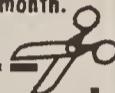


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MAY 29: The UPPER NOE Neighbors meet at 7:30 pm at the Upper Noe Rec Center, Day and Sanchez St. 824-1062.

MAY 30-JUNE 29: The Marsh presents the COMEDY "Ralph Nader is Missing!" Thurs.-Sat., 8:30 pm; Sun., 7:30 pm. 1062 Valencia St. 826-5750.

MAY 31: The Noe Valley Music Series presents local resident and Celtic violinist ATHENA TERGIS performing with Irish music heroes Harry Bradley and Aidan Brennan. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

MAY 31 & JUNE 1: The S.F. Children's Chorus and Community Music Center Orchestra perform a children's OPERA, *The Second Seven Years*. Sat., 7 pm; Sun., 4 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

JUNE 1: Lauren Barnert teaches BODY THERAPIES for Natural Menopause, including yoga and stress reduction. 10 am-5 pm. Center for the Heart, 46th Ave. & Cabrillo. 647-5822.

JUNE 1: The Great San Francisco TREASURE HUNT benefits the S.F. Mime Troupe. Noon-5:30 pm. Start and finish at the Presidio Officers' Club, Graham & Moraga. Call 646-0639 for registration information.

JUNE 1: The Stand for Children FAMILY PICNIC DAY at Yerba Buena Gardens runs from 1 to 4 pm. Call 641-4362 for info.

JUNE 1: Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC presents a concert by lyric soprano Nannette McGuinness and classical guitarist Richard Flores. 2 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

JUNE 1: The San Francisco Children's Chorus performs Urs Leonhardt Steiner's OPERA *The Second Seven Years*. 2 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

JUNE 1 & 15: Children's 10:30 am STORY TIME at the Helen Crocker Russell Library features "Oh Soil Oh Mio? Gardening Stories," followed by an 11 am family walk in the Botanical Gardens. 661-1316, ext. 303.

JUNE 2-30: Integral Yoga Institute offers HATHA YOGA classes Mon.-Fri., 9:30 am and 6 pm; and Sat. at 8, 9:30, and 11 am. 770 Dolores St. 821-1117.

JUNE 2-JULY 14: CERAMICIST Annie Asebrook exhibits her functional and decorative works in the gallery at 17 Reasons. Wed.-Mon., 11 am-6:30 pm. 3961 24th St. 206-1717.

JUNE 3: VOTE!



Bubbe Lee & Me, a film by Noe Valley resident Andy Abrahams Wilson about his salty grandmother living in Florida, will be shown as part of the 21st Lesbian & Gay Film Festival June 20-29.

JUNE 3, 10, 17 & 24: The Ingleside Library invites kids of all ages to its CHESS & CHECKERS Club. 3:30 pm. 387 Ashton Ave. 337-4745.

JUNE 3, 17 & 24: The Noe Valley Library offers a STORY TIME for preschoolers ages 3 to 5. 10 am. 451 Jersey St. 647-3753.

JUNE 4: The EAST & WEST of Castro Street Improvement Club discusses neighborhood issues, including red-light runners. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

JUNE 4, 11, 18 & 25: The Noe Valley Library's ongoing LAPSiT for infants, toddlers, and their parents begins at 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

JUNE 4, 11, 18 & 25: SCRABBLE NIGHT at the Bernal Heights Library begins at 7:30 pm. 500 Cortland Ave. 695-5160.

JUNE 5: Rosh Chodesh, a new moon ritual celebrated by women, is accompanied by meditation, song, and movement. 7:30-9 pm. Jewish Community Center, 3200 California St. 292-1254.

JUNE 6: The annual fundraiser ZOOFEST FOR KIDS offers an evening's exploration of the S.F. Zoo with refreshments and entertainment. 753-7080.

JUNE 6: KQED-TV Channel 9 begins a celebration of Lesbian and Gay Pride Month with "Ladies Please," a look into the personal lives of the three drag queens who inspired the movie *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. 10 pm.

JUNE 6, 13, 20 & 27: 30th Street Senior Services offers instruction in Latin and BALLROOM DANCING. Noon-1:30 pm. 225 30th St., Room 325. For info call Jorge Santis at 550-2221.

JUNE 6, 13, 20 & 27: The Marsh's Mock Cafe features a late-night VIDEO RANT by Michael Anderson, "Roadrunner/Roadrunner," flashbacks on the politics of Saturday-morning cartoons. 10:30 pm. 1070 Valencia St. 641-0235.



Jazz harpist Deborah Henson-Conant sings, strings, and plucks at the Noe Valley Music Series Saturday, June 14. Photo by Lisa Bogdan.

JUNE 7: The S.F. League of Urban Gardeners (SLUG) offers a WORKSHOP in summer pruning. 10 am-1 pm. Garden for the Environment, 7th Ave & Lawton, 285-7584.

JUNE 7: Jan Zobel's one-day seminar, "Basic TAX and Recordkeeping for Self-Employed People," runs from 10 am to 4 pm. Valencia & 23rd. 821-1015.

JUNE 7: The S.F. Bicycle Coalition and SLUG co-sponsor a BICYCLE TOUR of the city's community gardens, in conjunction with Open Garden Day. 11 am-3 pm. Meet at the Dolores Park tennis courts. 431-BIKE.

JUNE 7: Twenty-fifth Street's BLOCK GARAGE SALE runs from Noe to Sanchez, 11 am to 4 pm. See you there!

JUNE 7: Kaya Fortune's WEARABLE ART class considers hip-hop and high fashion, sewing and pattern construction. Use recycled clothing to create your own garment. 1 pm. The Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9523.

JUNE 7: Community Music Center students perform an ALL-SCHOOL RECITAL for all levels of ability. 3 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

JUNE 7: Noe Valley artist Paul Lanier exhibits his Japanese wood-fired CERAMIC ART in #450 at Studio 71. 3-6 pm. 375 Alabama St. 695-7970.

JUNE 7: Organist Thomas Marshall performs a free CONCERT of Brahms, Dello Joio, and Bach. 5 pm, followed by a 5:30 reception and 6 pm worship service. The Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist, 1661 15th St. 861-1436.

JUNE 7: Bethany Methodist Church hosts a benefit DINNER CABARET, "An Evening Way Off Broadway." 6:30-10 pm. 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393.

JUNE 8: The SPCA's ANIMAL WING-DING is a four-block street fair and parade for animal lovers. 9 am-5 pm. Call 554-3046 for details.

JUNE 8: Sharon Art Studio in Golden Gate Park hosts its annual student/staff ART EXHIBITION and silent auction. 11 am-4:30 pm. Opposite the Carousel near Children's Playground. 753-7904.

JUNE 8: The Noe Valley Library hosts "24th Street, Then and Now," a CELEBRATION of local history featuring the Singing Rainbow, Bruce Sherman, historical movies, displays, refreshments, 2-5 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

JUNE 8: Noe Valley Ministry's CANTATE service of chanting, meditation, and prayer begins at 7 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

JUNE 9: 30th Street Senior Center and On Lok Senior Services celebrate HEALTH WEEK with lectures, screenings, and activities. Preregister at 550-2210.

JUNE 10: FILMS for preschoolers will be shown at 10 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

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JUNE 10: The Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Library hosts the LIZARD LADY, Teressa Killeen, and her Reptile Revue. 10 pm. 3555 16th St. 554-9445.

JUNE 10: POETS Donald P. Hilla Jr. and Jonathan Hayes read from their work at Keane's 3300 Club. 7 pm. 3300 Mission St. 826-6886.

JUNE 11: The Glen Park Library kicks off the SUMMER READING CLUB with an appearance by Jimbo the Clown. 7 pm. 653 Chenery St. 337-4740.

JUNE 11: Bring a five-minute reading, yours or someone else's, to Good Vibrations' EROTIC READING Circle; everyone welcome. 8-10 pm. 1210 Valencia St. 974-8980.

JUNE 11 & 25: DDUG DOWD'S history lecture series discusses *Blues for America*. 7 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

JUNE 12: The Main Library presents a large-screen VIDEO showing of Bob Fosse's 1972 film *Cabaret*. Noon. Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin St. 557-4595.

JUNE 12: Chris Mazza and her canine companion Vixen discuss her new NOVEL, *Dog People*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

JUNE 12-14: Dancers' Group Studio Theater presents Mexican BUTOH DANCER Diego Piñón in a program of ritual dance. Thurs.-Sat., 8 pm. 3221 22nd St. 824-5044.

JUNE 14: Find treasures at the Dominican Guild's GARAGE SALE at ICA Cafeteria, 24th & Guerrero. 10 am-5 pm.

JUNE 14: Gallery Nomad presents "Balance," a group ART EXHIBIT and fundraiser for the S.F. Buddhist Center. 6-10 pm. 37 Bartlett St. 522-7098.

JUNE 14: The Noe Valley Music Series presents jazz HARPIST Deborah Henson-Conant in concert. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

JUNE 15: Advanced students and Community Music Center faculty members perform a BARDQUE HDUR of music from the 15th to the 18th centuries. 4 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

CALENDAR

JUNE 18: Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth offers a noon DISCUSSION of the city's youth services, sponsored by Youth Making a Change. 2601 Mission St. 641-4362.

JUNE 18: The S.F. Ethnic Dance Festival presents a HAWAIIAN HULA lecture and demonstration. 6:30-7:30 pm. Main Library, Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin St. 557-4595.

JUNE 18: The Glen Park Library presents the SNAPDRAGON PUPPETS with Roger Mara. 7 pm. 653 Chenery St. 337-4740.

JUNE 18-20, 23 & 24: Davies Medical Center offers a five-evening course in home care skills for HIV and AIDS. 7-10 pm. Castro & Duboce. 565-6000.

JUNE 19: A summer solstice party sponsored by SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING features a live band fiddling out jigs and reels. Spectators free. 7:45 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 333-9372.

JUNE 20: The Tse Chen Ling Center hosts a BDDK DISCUSSION of *Healing Anger* by HH Dalai Lama. 7 pm. 4 Joost Ave. 339-8002.

JUNE 20: The Noe Valley Music Series presents folksinger UTAH PHILLIPS in concert. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

JUNE 20-29: The S.F. LESBIAN & GAY Film Festival at the Castro, Victoria, and Roxie theaters, will culminate in the Gay and Lesbian Freedom Day Parade on Sunday, June 29. Call the film festival hotline at 703-8663.

JUNE 21: The S.F. Water Department sells LOW-FLOW TOILETS for \$10 each at City College. 10 am-2 pm. Call 923-2473 for info.

JUNE 21: Use unconventional materials and found objects to make FUTURISTIC CARS in Charles Dabo's workshop at the Randall Museum. 1 pm. 199 Museum Way 554-9523.

JUNE 21: The S.F. MYSTERY Bookstore presents Marcia Muller and Bill Pronzini signing their new novels. 2-3 pm. 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

JUNE 22 & 29: Natural Resources offers a CHILDBIRTH prep intensive. 9 am-2 pm. 1307 Castro St. 550-2611.

JUNE 23: Sue Martin leads an EMBODIED CREATIVITY workshop of movement, drawing, storytelling, and writing over four Monday evenings (excluding July 7). 6:30-9 pm. 3435 Cesar Chavez St. 826-4837.

JUNE 24: The Adventist HEALTHVAN gives cholesterol and blood pressure screening at Bell Market on 24th Street. 10 am-4 pm. 775-2570.

JUNE 24: BEAT POETS Ruth Weiss and Ronald Hobbs read at Keane's 3300 Club. 7 pm. 3300 Mission St. 826-6886.

JUNE 24: KAREN KIJEWSKI signs the latest Kat Colorado mystery, *Scratch Fever*. 1:30-2:30 pm. S.F. Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

JUNE 24: GUILLERMO GOMEZ-PENA, "El Mexterminator," reads from *Temple of Confessions: Mexican Beasts and Living Santos*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

JUNE 25: The Mission Branch Library invites children 4 and up to join the origami FRDG-JUMPING contest. 2:30 pm. 3359 24th St. 695-5090.

JUNE 26: The Excelsior Branch Library offers a free Q&A discussion for teens, "Teens and the Law: Your Rights on the Street and Off." Pizza will be served. 2 pm. 4400 Mission St. 337-4735.

JUNE 26: The San Francisco NATURAL HISTORY series at the Randall Museum features a discussion, "Restoring the City's Remnant Natural Areas." 7:30 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9523.

The performers from Make-A-Circus will have the kids doing flips under the Big Top in Golden Gate Park June 29.

JUNE 21 & 22: The S.F. Free FDLK FESTIVAL features concerts, dances, workshops, kids' activities, and refreshments at Roosevelt Middle School. Sat., noon-11 pm; Sun., noon-10 pm. 460 Arguello St. (510) 521-8764.

JUNE 26: The Eighth Annual BLOOMSDAY

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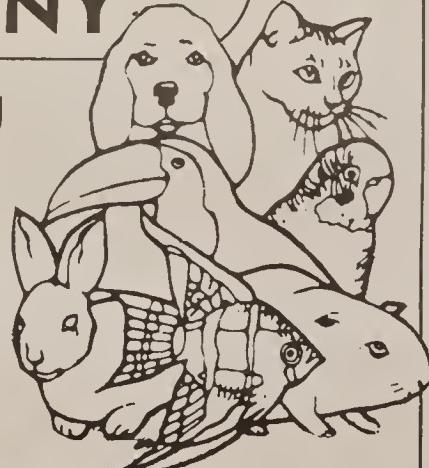
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Dan Marshall

Real Estate News

Remodeling to Improve Resale Value: How Much Is Enough?

By Dan Marshall

Century 21/Hartford Properties

Many homeowners want to know how much remodeling is enough to improve the value of their investment—and how much is too much. The answer to this question may lie in Greek philosophy: "Moderation in all things."

Begin with first impressions. They really do mean a lot. If a property doesn't look nice from the street, many prospective buyers may look no further. It must have what we call "curbside appeal." Simply painting the exterior can be a sound investment.

Inside, the most important room, by far, is the kitchen. A \$10,000 investment here can improve the resale value of the entire home by as much as \$25–30,000. One reason: busy professionals don't want expensive and time-consuming plumbing and wiring problems

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awaiting them as soon as the deal closes. A finished kitchen means a lot.

Most buyers appreciate modern kitchen appliances. They will be looking for reliable new models, but the seller need not spring for "designer labels." A gas stove is usually considered a bonus; a professional range may not add significant value. Sellers may also enhance the decor economically, by re-facing existing kitchen cabinetry rather than replacing it.

Next in importance are the bathrooms. In San Francisco, these often date from another era. Yet, it usually doesn't take much to update appearances, creating a well-lit area with plenty of outlets. A second bath or half-bath can really enhance overall saleability. As for the rest of the house, fresh paint, hardwood floors or carpeting contribute to a tidy look. Bear in mind that some buyers might be willing to overlook a few flaws, and even anticipate investing a little "sweat equity" into these rooms.

Above all, homeowners need to avoid creating "economic obsolescence," by improving their property far beyond the value of its neighbors. It becomes out of character with the rest of the neighborhood. So it is unwise to take a property worth \$250,000, sink \$100,000 of remodeling into it, and then hang a price tag on it of \$350,000. When the surrounding houses are still appraised at \$150,000, this over-improved beauty can be difficult to sell, because there are no nearby price comparisons.

When it comes to investing in a home renovation, the Greeks had it right: a little moderation can save a bundle.

Dan Marshall is a partner in a real estate marketing team with associate Lance Fulford. He has been a real estate investor for 20 years. Marshall is a native San Franciscan and has a degree in Marketing from San Francisco State. A respected Century 21/Hartford Properties sales consultant, he has considerable experience in both residential and commercial real estate.

If you have questions about real estate investments, contact Dan Marshall at Century 21/Hartford Properties in San Francisco, (415) 863-7500 ext. 169.



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The Inside Story on Four Noe Valley B&Bs

By Pat Rose

Summer is upon us, and that means out-of-town guests who want to soak up the city sights. The problem is where to put them. If you don't have a spare room—and who does these days?—having guests in your home can be like living in a fishbowl. But downtown hotels are inordinately expensive and far from the neighborhood.

Fortunately, there's an alternative that keeps friends and family off the pull-out sofa, yet close by and comfortable. Noe Valley bed and breakfasts are one of the neighborhood's best-kept secrets. (In fact, some are so low-key, they declined to be interviewed for this article.) These guest lodgings come in a variety of shapes and sizes, from a European-style tourist home to a fully furnished apartment in an old Victorian.

The Hidden Cottage

1186 Noe St. between Jersey & 25th
Contact: Dave Cannata at 282-4492

Just up the hill from Jersey Street on Noe sits a striking two-story white Victorian with an American flag flying, bougainvillea blooming over the front door, and an antique weather vane perched on the roof. According to neighborhood lore, this residence was once a farmhouse back when the area was dotted with dairy farms. If you take a closer look, you'll also see a small handpainted sign shaped like a teapot announcing the Hidden Cottage Bed & Breakfast.

Owners Dave and Ginger Cannata decided a year ago to convert a bedroom and bath in the back of their house into a B&B, to help pay for their kids' school tuition. "We didn't want people staying right in our house," says Dave Cannata, "so we closed off the space and created a private entrance."

Tucked away in a back garden full of impatiens and plum trees, a wood staircase leads up to a light and airy bedroom complete with lace curtains and a skylight. The room has a queen-size cast-iron bed, a beautifully restored oak dresser (one of Dave Cannata's many refinishing projects), a ceiling fan, two spacious clos-



Guests at the cozy Hidden Cottage on Noe Street have their breakfast of croissants and fresh fruit delivered in a picnic basket.

Photo by Charles Kennard

ets, comfy chairs, and a TV, VCR, and private phone.

A sliding glass door off the bedroom leads out to a deck with an outdoor shower, potted ferns, and lots of privacy. The large bathroom has marble floors and a double-tub beneath another skylight.

For breakfast, guests receive coffee and tea, croissants and fresh fruit, hand-delivered in a picnic basket. Though the house is only a block and a half from 24th Street, Cannata says, "People can't believe how quiet and sunny it is." The fact that he and his wife offer private parking makes things even more peaceful.

During the couple's first year of operation, their visitors ran the gamut "from

priests to ukulele salesmen," Cannata says. Most of the referrals came from neighborhood friends and travel agents who'd heard about them through the grapevine. (They don't advertise.)

Nowadays, the cottage is generally booked a month in advance, with April and May being the busiest times.

The room limit is two people, and to discourage one-night stays, the charge is \$150 for one night and \$100 for two nights or more.

There's another small catch: This year the Hidden Cottage is already promised for the months of June through August, when the Cannatas will be in Maui relaxing on their own vacation.

Noe's Nest

3973 23rd St. between Sanchez & Noe
Contact: Sheila Robinson at 821-0751

If you prefer the hustle and bustle of a European pension, then you'll feel right at home at Noe's Nest, on 23rd near Sanchez. Proprietor Sheila Robinson, a single mom, turned her residence into a bed and breakfast 11 years ago.

Ninety percent of her clientele are friends and family of people in the neighborhood. Many are older parents, and she makes an effort to put out the welcome mat. "Some guests just want to get their keys and go," says Robinson. "Others want to sit and visit, or have me show them around."

In good weather, visitors congregate on the front deck over a breakfast of bagels, lox, cream cheese, fresh fruit, and quiche. Inside, the house is a mix of cultural artifacts and modern technology. Aboriginal masks and a Japanese wedding gown grace the walls of the common dining room, while a fax machine hums on a table nearby. The house is full of fish tanks and photos of film stars, including Robinson's daughter Kendra, who had a part in the Robin Williams movie *Jack*.

Each of the five guest rooms has a theme. The smallest, the Oriental Room, still manages to hold a queen-size bed, a Japanese lacquered desk, and a sleeping loft over a bathroom and closet. The Garden Room at the back of the house has a fold-out couch, a queen-size bed, a working fireplace, and a picture window with a view of the garden. A large bathroom with a tub and shower also looks out onto the garden, and after a bath you can stroll out the door onto your own private deck.

The patio garden below has a hot tub and massage room, and is accessible to guests through an enclosed alleyway on the side of the house.

Upstairs are two more rooms: the Castaway Room, which sleeps four, and the Penthouse Suite. The Penthouse, the largest and sunniest room in the house, has a king-size bed and corner fireplace, plus a combination shower/steam room, a washer and dryer, and a full deck with a view of Noe Valley. The French Room, which sleeps two, is situated below the kitchen with a private outside entrance.

Each room has cable television, a VCR, and a private phone. They're all stocked with books and videos too (including a copy of *Jack*).

Robinson says Noe's Nest's busiest season is March through October, with summer often booked eight weeks in advance. Prices range from \$95 to \$160 a night.

Continued on Page 28

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The living room of the Victorian Garden on 26th Street is often flooded with light from an arched window looking onto the back garden.

Photos by Charles Kennard

Four Noe Valley Bed & Breakfasts

Continued from Page 27

The Victorian Garden

26th Street near Noe

The Edwardian

27th Street near Church

Contact: R.N. Geikow at 206-0202

If you're looking for the comforts of home with all the amenities, you might want to stay at one of two Noe Valley bed and breakfasts owned by R.N. Geikow. He calls one the Victorian Garden and the other the Edwardian.

Geikow started the Victorian Garden out of an apartment he renovated in his first house, on 26th Street near Noe.

"I liked the idea of a B&B as an alternative to renting the apartment full time. It gives me the freedom to use the space when I need it for my own friends and family, and I can book guests when it works with my schedule."

The Victorian Garden has a street-level entrance on the side of the house, which opens into a long foyer lined with prints from the museums of Europe. Geikow and his wife love to travel, and the apartment is full of charming touches from their trips — pottery from Portugal, watercolors from Ukraine, and a soap dish from England, for instance.

The bedroom and bath at the end of the hall share a sound system, and the shower-only bathroom features colorful Mexican tile. The bedroom has a queen-size bed, large closet, desk, armchair, and phone. A galley kitchen off the bedroom is equipped with all major appliances and a full set of dishes.

Guests make their own breakfast from a well-stocked pantry of cereals, breads,

oatmeal, and even pancake mix. Geikow also provides fresh fruit and yogurt.

The living room features a large arched window that looks out onto a garden filled with geraniums, petunias, and roses. The room has plenty of chairs and an overstuffed couch to lounge around in, plus a TV, VCR, and working fireplace. Guests can also sit outside on the patio and use the gas grill for barbecuing.

Geikow's other B&B, the Edwardian, is located a couple of blocks away at 27th and Church. He acquired the building about a year and a half ago. This street-level apartment has a formal living room with hardwood floors, upholstered furniture, a cable TV, stereo, and phone, and a large sofa that converts to a queen sleeper. The fully stocked kitchen is large enough to hold a dining table and chairs.

The sunny bedroom at the back of the apartment has a queen-size canopy bed and a view of the garden. Geikow grows tomatoes, squash, and other vegetables in the garden, which also boasts climbing jasmine, miniature roses, and beautiful red fuchsias.

The rate for either bed and breakfast is \$95 per night with a two-night minimum. But Geikow says reduced prices for longer stays are negotiable. His busiest time is March through November, and the Christmas holidays. He suggests booking six to eight weeks ahead for weekend stays during the busy season.

Geikow notes that the majority of the guests are seniors and parents of Noe Valley residents, and his neighbors often have people stay with him. "Our guests are discreet, they don't have parties, and they don't interfere with the quiet of the neighborhood," he says.

"It's been a great experience. I get to meet interesting people from all over the world, and they're so appreciative. It's a really fun way to serve people." □



The Oriental Room at Noe's Nest has a queen-size bed and a Japanese lacquered desk, plus a sleeping loft over a bathroom and closet.

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Amnesty International Group 80
 Contact: Lauren Fondahl, 587-7299
 Mailing Address: 562 Bright St., San Francisco, CA 94132
 Meetings: First Thursday of month, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 7:30 p.m.

Castro Area Planning + Action
 Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230
 E-mail: capa@home4us.org
 Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association
 Contact: Robert Dockendorff, 826-3867
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club
 Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228
 Mailing Address: 3732 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: Bimonthly; membership meetings semi-annually. Call for details.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)
 Contact: Evelyn Martin, 826-6734, Keith Eickman, 282-8988, Dennis Downing, 647-0937, or Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
 Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club
 Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
 Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St., San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.
Note: The East & West Club will not meet in July or August.

Fair Oaks Neighbors
 Contact: Paul Nixon, 647-5183
 Mailing Address: 163 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110
 Meetings: Call for details.

Fairmount Neighborhood Association
 Contact: Susan Nutter, 285-8484
 Mailing Address: 78 Harper St., San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

Friends of Noe Valley
 Contact: Cecile Lozano, 695-9502
 Mailing Address: 327 Jersey St., San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:45 p.m.

La Leche League of San Francisco
 Contact: Susan Condon, 282-7816
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460566, San Francisco, CA 94146-0566
 Meetings: Third Thursday of month, Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez, 12:15 p.m.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association
 Contact: Barbara Russell, v.p., 285-4782; John Barbey, pres., 695-0990;
 Mailing Address: 3288 21st St., Box 44, San Francisco, CA 94110
 Meetings: At least quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Valley Democratic Club
 Contact: Dave Monks, 821-4087
 Mailing Address: 1652 Dolores St. #6, San Francisco, CA 94110
 Meetings: Second Wednesday of month, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 7:30 p.m.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association
 Contact: Robert Roddick, pres., 641-8692
 Mailing Address: Robert T. Roddick, Noe Valley Law Offices, P.O. Box 460574, San Francisco, CA 94114-6003
 Meetings: Last Wednesday of month, Bank of America, 24th & Castro, 9 a.m.

Noe Valley Senior Center
 Call 648-1030 for lunch reservations.
 Mailing Address: 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114
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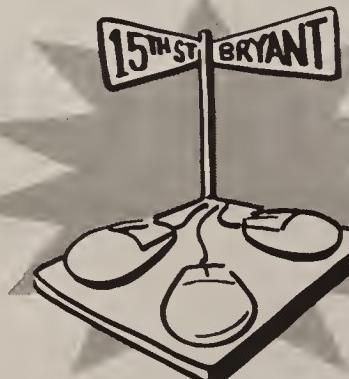
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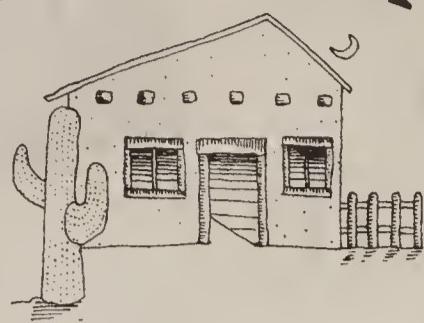
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If they're Noe Valleons, what reading material do you guess they take with their carry-ons: *The New York Times?* *Fodor's?* *The Bernal Review?* It appears the answer is invariably *The Noe Valley Voice.*



Sophie Tschopp and Frances Brett, Jersey Street residents and members of the Noe Valley Senior Center, recently visited Stewart Island off the coast of New Zealand. Pictured here, the ladies paused to consider their next destination.



Robert Dawson ventured far from his Noe Street home to teach a photography workshop in Key West, Fla. During a field trip in a mangrove swamp, Bob made himself the photo subject while re-reading April's *No Way Valley Voice*.



Joel Lym was born and raised in Noe Valley, and took his favorite newspaper along on a three-week trip in December to Japan. Above, he stands in front of Kyoto's Ginkakuji Temple (a.k.a. the Silver Pavilion), which dates back to 1482.



A Day in the Country: Photo editor Charles Kennard traveled home to Cornwall, England, earlier this year to attend his mother Hester's 80th birthday. But the celebration nearly came to a halt when Charlie delivered a copy of the Noe Valley Voice to each member of the family. Every human and canine became so engrossed in reading, that the next words spoken hours later were "Who's going back to the States to get more?"

Photo by Charles Kennard

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■ DINING UPDATES

Still No Place Like Homey Little Italy

BY MICHAEL BAUER

Chronicle Food Editor

When you look at the stylish new restaurants that have come to Noe Valley in the past few years — Firefly, Bacco and Savor, to name a few — Little Italy looks like ancient history.

The checked tablecloths are threadbare and faded. The cramped interior (with its pine paneling and lots of objects on the walls) and the partly open kitchen lend the place a homely, cluttered look.

It's the antithesis of trendy, but the fare is soul-satisfying — spaghetti with meat sauce (\$8.50) that packs a wallop of spice; carbonara (\$8.95) with a rich cream sauce; chicken cacciatore, smothered in tomato sauce (\$11.75).

The menu is two pages long, but the 25 specials, highlighted in red, offer some of the best eating; a garlicky artichoke (\$6.95) smothered in breadcrumbs, cheese and bits of ham, for instance.

Consistently one of the brightest dishes is the sea bass (\$13.75), in which the silken-textured fish is bathed in a spicy tomato sauce. Order it with the spaghetti so there's something to soak up the delectable sauce.

However, another staple, chicken with garlic and vinegar (\$10.95), offered too much of a good thing. The whiff of vinegar was so pungent it caused us to choke, so strong, in fact, that it overpowered the quarter-cup of diced garlic that topped the meat.

If you don't like garlic, Little Italy is not for you; it's used like salt, sprinkled liberally on just about every dish.

To clear the palate, try the zaghetti with fruit (\$4.95). It's so frothy that the Marsala-laced egg

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Overall ★★½
Food ★★½
Atmosphere ★★
Prices \$\$

mixture spills over the side of the metal sundae glass and pools on the bottom of the plate.

If this rustic food isn't comfort enough, then the staff certainly is, once you're past the cool and inefficient host, who left us standing for several minutes while he answered the phone, brushed off his reservation book and looked perplexed as to where to seat us in a half-empty room. When we quickly downed our first glass of water, the waiter brought a pitcher. "Those glasses are so small I thought you might need this," he said, leaving it on the table.

When we finished just half of our pasta for appetizer—they won't split orders—and asked to take the rest home, the waiter came back and said, "I took the liberty of adding some more pasta; it was mostly sauce."

We ended up wondering why we had waited so long to go back to this restaurant, where the food and service truly comfort the weary diner.

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Photo by Pamela Gerard

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A MASKED ROBBER

Boldly Stops Two Castro-Street Cars.

THE PASSENGERS STAMPEDE.

He Secured Only a Watch and a Few Dollars.

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A Third Car Would Probably Have Been Tackled but for a Police Officer's Presence.

A daring highwayman played a star engagement in the holding-up line on Castro street last evening.

Not only did he go through two cars of the Castro-street line, one after the other, but he would have performed the same operation on a third car had it not been for a timely warning given him by a conductor.

At 9 o'clock, just as car 105, going south, had got between Twenty-second and Alvarado streets on Castro, a tall, slenderly built man, wearing a black slouch hat and with his face half covered with a handkerchief, sprang upon the dummy [*the grip car, which grabbed the cable*], and presenting a pistol at Gripman Joseph Mears ordered him to stop the car.

Mears did not stop to argue the matter, but immediately obeyed the order.

"Now, give me what stuff you have," commanded the man with the pistol. Mears said he had no money and just then the conductor, W.J. Trubbold, came forward to see what the stoppage was for.

The masked man covered him, too, with the weapon and called upon him for money.

"I've only got 15 cents," he asserted.

"Hand it over anyway," commanded the robber and Trubbold did so.

"Now, for the passengers," remarked the highwayman, who did not seem to consider it anything strange that the conductor did not have any more money.

There were four passengers aboard, but realizing that the car was being held up they dashed out the back door and escaped in the darkness.

The highwayman swore vigorously when he perceived what had happened, and with a flourish of the pistol he ordered the gripman to go on with his car.

He then walked down Castro street, with his pistol in hand, toward car No. 121 that was approaching. He did not appear to be in any special hurry, and conducted himself very coolly.

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CABLE CARS 1873-1906

A postcard history from the San Francisco Archives
Official issue, set of ten



The earliest cable cars, such as this 1873 model on the Clay Street Hill Railroad, had two parts: the grip car or "dummy," and the trailer. Riders sat in both. Photo courtesy S.F. Cable Car Museum

Two of the passengers from car 105 had in running down the street come up with the approaching car and at once notified those on board that a highwayman was abroad in the neighborhood. There were at least a dozen passengers on the car and they immediately inaugurated a stampede. In the midst of it the highwayman sauntered up, still holding his pistol in his hand.

He swung himself on the dummy and covered the gripman, W. Hamilton. The latter is an old soldier and does not get "rat-tled" very easily. He had prepared himself for the robber by grasping a heavy iron wrench. He stated afterward that it had been his intention to get a blow in on the robber as soon as he should get on the dummy.

The man who was after other people's money observed his action, though, and cocking his pistol with an ominous click he ordered him to drop the wrench. Conductor Grethers in the meantime had turned his money from his pockets into a box under one of the car-seats and then dashed off down the road, his intention being, he said, to save the next car that was coming up the hill from being stood up. He did not know whether there was one robber or two or three.

Still keeping the gripman covered, the highwayman told two or three of the passengers to hand over their valuables. One man gave him a purse containing \$2.70, and another young man passed him a silver watch and several silver dollars.

The other passengers slipped away before the robber could get around to the rear platform, and all he secured came from the two dummy passengers. The gripman escaped being robbed by saying that he had nothing. The approach of a car going toward town also frightened the robber off. He sprang off to one side of the road and hastened down the grade toward Twentieth street. The third car was stopped by the

conductor of No. 121 and the situation of affairs was explained. While the conductor was making his explanations the highwayman, pistol in hand, hove in sight, and the conductor cried out, "There he is, now."

There happened to be a police officer on this car, and he started toward the approaching man. Whether it had been the robber's intention to stand up the third car or not was not known. When he saw the tall form of the officer bearing down on him he changed his course and ran off at a rapid rate, going in the direction of town. The officer followed but lost track of him in the darkness. Notice was at once sent to police headquarters and in a very short while there were five or six officers on the scene of the affair and they began to scour the vicinity for traces of the bold robbers, but they were unable to learn anything.

"I never saw such a nervy fellow," said Gripman Hamilton. "He ordered me to stop the car, and then seeing that I had the iron wrench he said to put it down or he would kill me. He was a man, I judge, 45 years of age and of a florid countenance, although I could not see the lower part of his face on account of his having a dirty white handkerchief tied around it. I asked him what he wanted to rob a poor man who was working for a living for.

"'Got to do it,' he replied. 'I need the money mighty bad.' I didn't have any for him, and then he looked after the dummy passengers. I don't know how much he got, although it could not have been over \$10, besides the watch. If I could have got a

show I would have banged him with that wrench. He wore dark blue clothes as near as I could judge, and his eyes were shaded by a wide-brimmed black slouch hat. My conductor threw all his money under the seat before he ran back to the other car. The fellow was not flustered the least bit, and I suppose he was going after the third car. From all I can learn he did not make much of a haul on the first two cars."

On account of the manner in which they stampeded, it is impossible to give any of the names of the passengers who were on the cars. Even those who gave up money and a watch refused to divulge their identity.

The spot where the robbery occurred is an ideal one for any such nefarious work. On one side is a steep bluff extending for two blocks and on the other are vacant lots. It is a dismal and dark place, and altogether suited for such a purpose. □

If You Think It's Tough Riding The Muni Now...

Former 22nd Street resident Kevin Mullen, a retired deputy police chief, dug up this story from the *Daily Morning Call*, "the newspaper of the working man" 100 years ago in San Francisco. Our reprint has slightly larger type, but the headlines and punctuation are exactly as they were on June 24, 1894.

Mullen arrived in Noe Valley as a frisky 5-year-old in 1941 — a year too late to ride the Castro Street cablecar over the hill separating Noe and Eureka valleys. But the tracks still led to the old car barn at Castro and Jersey. And the days of streetcar stickups were fresh in people's minds.

"Train robbing was a big deal in the late 19th century," says Mullen, who now writes about criminal justice and San Francisco history. "We think of it as a rural thing, but back then it did have its urban dimension."

The past is often seen "through the rose-tinted glasses of nostalgia," he adds. "It's easy to forget that urban life has always been challenging." So go on and get your Muni pass. □



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Family Birthmarks

Each year on Mother's and Father's Day, I remember my parents fondly, and with a more mature understanding.

My parents, John and Lena Mickelson, were good, salt-of-the-earth people—hardworking, understanding, and always protective of my two brothers and me.

Only after raising children of my own did I realize how much effort and concern went into the process.

My father was born on the Swedish-speaking west coast of Finland. As a lad, he was trained as a woodworker. In 1910, when he was 18 years old, he left the security of his rural village and journeyed to a strange and unfamiliar country, to join his two older brothers in the copper-mining town of Butte, Montana.

He was able to go because an uncle loaned him the money to buy a steamship ticket and a tailored suit of clothes. His parents knew nothing of this until the plans had been made, so they were understandably distressed and opposed to losing another son. But the uncle intervened, urging them to let their son have his chance in the land of opportunity. Reluctantly, they acquiesced.



On the day of his embarkation, John thought he looked fine in his new suit—until he noticed a huge pimple on his forehead. The minute he boarded the ship, he rushed to the ship's doctor. However, the treatment proved more offensive than the ailment. When he looked in the mirror, the zit was no longer visible—but only because the doctor had covered it with an enormous crisscross of white adhesive tape.

He suspected that the doctor was taking advantage of a young greenhorn. But his appearance filled him with such embarrassment he retreated to his cabin, where he remained until the ship docked in New York.

When my father arrived in Butte, he spoke not a word of English—only Swedish. Nevertheless, he found a job in the copper mines, erecting timber

braceings in the underground tunnels.

He was a hard worker by day and a spirited dancer by night—attending every social function that the Swede-Finn colony offered (and there were many!). In fact, he met my mother on the dance floor. They had so many interests in common, they soon decided to become partners for life.

Although her two sisters were born in Finland, my mother Lena wasn't born until after her parents had moved to the United States. Educated not only in the public schools but also at a Swedish private school for the large Scandinavian colony in Montana, she was fluent in both Swedish and English.

After graduation she went on to business school, which prepared her for a secretarial position with the Montana sheepshearers union. She later told me how frightened she was when she had to read the minutes at the union meetings, where an auditorium full of grizzled faces stared up at her as though they had never seen a woman before. I might add that she was a beauty.

After my parents married in 1913, my father worked only long enough to save the money to buy a farm in Idaho. Since World War I was raging, and the Europeans were unable to farm their land, crops like potatoes were desperately needed. My father, who had grown up on a potato farm, intended to provide them. He also knew that mining was a dangerous and unhealthy profession.

As soon as he could, he packed up his bride of five years, along with their young son Clarence, and headed for Idaho. It took back-breaking labor through that first spring and summer to clear the land, prepare the soil, and plant the seed tubers in time for a fall harvest. But they succeeded.

During the winter that followed, my mother helped my father study for his U.S. citizenship exam. While waiting for me to be born in 1919, she coached him in his new language and drilled him on the history and geography of the United States. There must have been many books and maps to memorize. But of course, he passed with flying colors. About the same time, I was born with a small birthmark on my neck.

After the war ended, my father moved the family to California. In 1925 when I was 6, we came to San Francisco and settled into a flat on Chattanooga Street.

My new little friends soon took an interest in my birthmark—a brownish smudge the size of a quarter. The more curious decreed it was the face of a cat,

with something—a mouse tail, perhaps—hanging from its mouth. When we began to study history in school, however, my friends declared the mark looked more like a map of the U.S. The "something hanging down" was Florida.

Clearly, the birthmark was proof of my parents' patriotism. But it also owed a lot to my mother's state of mind. She later told me that during the time she was helping my father study for his citizenship test, she developed a mysterious flap of skin on her neck about the size of a quarter. She simply yanked it off, but was startled to see a reminder of it imprinted on my neck, in the exact same spot, when I was born.

This leads me to wonder if I might have imprinted each of my own children in some way during my pregnancies. Perhaps while floating around in the womb, they were listening in on some of their mother's thoughts.

When I was carrying our first son, Michael, I was wading through Tolstoy's *War and Peace*. It was deeply moving, but a bit heavy for an embryo. Michael's personality did reflect some of the qualities of the book, for he grew up to be philosophical but prone to extremes. One day he would be filled with exaltation—the next day he'd be quiet, remote, and thoughtful.

As we awaited the birth of our second child, Jan, I was reading a gentler book, *Green Mansions* by W.H. Hudson—a beautiful story set in a wild, untouched forest. Perhaps it was this book that motivated Jan to move to Alaska when he grew up. For three years he lived on Tooken Island, 100 miles west of Ketchikan in the Pacific Ocean. The fishing was fantastic. In fact, he caught a fish that weighed as much as he did—170 pounds. He was completely happy living in this unpeopled green haven, without any of the conveniences of civilization. Only when he felt the need for a regular paycheck and a hot shower did he return to California to live in the green mansions of Grass Valley.

When our third child, Eric, was about to arrive, I was reclining in the hospital bed with the newest book club selection, *Conquest by Man*. My cranky obstetrician arrived, took one look at the title, and mumbled, "You should have read that nine months ago!"

Actually, I had only begun to read the first few pages when the doctor arrived, and I never finished the book. This was fortuitous, because when we got Eric home, he took complete charge of the



Florence's patriotic birthmark was still visible in 1950, when this picture was taken.

Photo by Leo Holub

household. Thankfully, it was only for the first few pages of his life. Then he settled down to become the good-natured, undemanding son he is today. Eric works in the printing trade, and is making his mark as a fine printer.

The job of raising children is gratifying but not easy. Only as an adult did I realize how fortunate my brothers and I were to have been given such admirable parents. Only by attempting to raise my own children with the same wisdom, industry, and humor could I ever hope to repay them. □

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Glen Park Residents Husham Harouni and 11-month-old Sabrine don't have any special plans for Father's Day. They might do their hair, but otherwise they'll probably just hang out and let it flow.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

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MORE MOUTHS TO FEED

By Maire Farrington

Hannah Clare Flury

Hannah Clare Flury—all 9 pounds, 13 ounces of her—landed in her parents' arms on Jan. 9, 1997, at U.C.S.F. Medical Center. Then the fun and games began.

Hannah's mom, Penelope Clare Flury, got tickled about her daughter's birth date: 1/9/97 (1997). And her dad, Dave Flury, started playing with her name: "We liked Hannah because of the palindrome—you can spell it backwards and forwards. And she was born at 6:26 a.m."

Both parents sang a chorus of "Welcome to our world of toys...." Penelope, 32, is an employee of Just for Fun gift shop on 24th Street. Dave, 33, is general manager of F.A.O. Schwarz, the huge toy store off Union Square.

Hannah probably knew she was headed for a home full of laughter, because she displayed a mischievous sense of humor well before she was born. During her mom's sonograms, Hannah strategically arranged her hands so as to conceal her gender. "She wanted to be a surprise and she was," Dave says.

Dave and Penelope, both from Baltimore, met in 1983 while working together in a furniture store. Friends for eight years, they dated for three years before marrying in 1994. A job transfer brought them to San Francisco and their home on Church Street last September.

Penelope was pregnant at the time, says Dave, and "we liked Noe Valley because we saw lots of strollers, lots of dogs, and lots of families. It does have that nice small-town-within-a-big-city feel."

With her blond hair, deep blue eyes, and easygoing personality, Hannah has already made lots of friends in the neighborhood. She often visits with 2-year-old Lea, or her buddy Connor, who is in her infant massage class. She also loves to hang with her pals at Just for Fun, when she accompanies Mom to work.

"The owners [Dave Eiland and Robert Ramsey] are totally in love with her,"



Baby Hannah Flury is some smart cookie. She picked a mom (Penelope) and dad (Dave) who both work at toy stores. Photo by Beverly Tharp

Penelope says. "They take her out to lunch and then to Small Frys, and buy her outfits," she adds.

"They've really adopted her," agrees Dave. "When she was born, they put a big sign in the window that said, 'It's a Girl!' People would come in and say, 'Where's the baby?'"

Hannah spends two days a week with her sitter, Edith Hendersen. On Dave's day off, father and daughter run errands, drop by Starbucks, or stop in to visit Mom at work. On those precious days when the whole family can be together, they hop in the car and explore new locales, such as Lincoln Park, Berkeley, or Marin. Hannah's a big fan of the car radio.

"Classic rock is her thing," says Dave. "She likes the Stones and the Who." She doesn't scoff at '60s dance music either. "The other day we were dancing," says Dad. "She likes *Twist and Shout* and *Locomotion*."

"She's very active," both parents say in unison. "One night when Penelope was eight months pregnant," Dave adds,

"Hannah actually woke me up because she was kicking so hard I could feel her on my back. I thought, Oh my God, she going to be a soccer player."

Speculation on Hannah's future career has now turned to basketball player or supermodel, because, says Dad, "she's very long—she's very tall."

If modeling is in the cards, Hannah is well on her way. "She has a closet full of clothes for up until she's 2 years old," says Penelope. Friends and family, perhaps assuming that giving toys would be like bringing coals to Newcastle, have instead chosen to regale Hannah with apparel.

"It's totally great," says Penelope, "because they're the things that we would never buy—these little velour and fur-trimmed outfits."

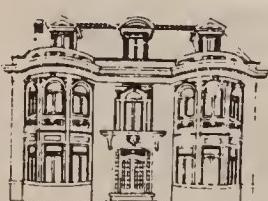
Hannah has a mirror within viewing range of her crib, and is fascinated with her image. "About a week ago I put her in the crib, and her blankies were down by her feet," Penelope relates. "When I went to check on her, I found her playing peekaboo in the mirror."

The Winnie the Pooh mobile above her bed is another source of amusement. Hannah even gets excited "when she sees your arm come over to wind it up again," says Dad. She also gets a thrill from picture books, her pinwheel, and her squeaky bear.

"Watching her grow has been wonderful," Dave says. "I'm enjoying the different stages, but I don't want her to grow up *too* fast!"

"A lot of people talk about how stressful parenting can be on a marriage," Penelope says. "It's been an adjustment, but I don't think it's been stressful at all. Perhaps that's because we're a pretty good team to begin with." And Hannah's happy to be one of the players. □

More Mouths to Feed wants to show off *your* newest family member. If you have welcomed a baby into the house or just adopted a teenager, please send your announcement to *The Noe Valley Voice*, More Mouths, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Don't forget to include your phone number, so we can arrange for the family portrait. □



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MORE BOOKS to READ

Older Residents of Noe Valley Have Many Stories to Tell

Here are some tips for books to check out at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, offered by librarians Lea Burroughs, Robert Crabb, Nancy Silverrod, and Carol Small. In addition to books, the library has videos, CDs, Internet access, a back deck and garden, and the archives and index to the *Noe Valley Voice*. This month you can also pore over vintage photos and talk to oldtimers at a Noe Valley History Day celebration on Sunday, June 8, 2 to 5 p.m. The library is located at 451 Jersey St. (near Castro); 695-5095. Regular hours are Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m. Any lemons in the garden are yours for the picking!

Adult Fiction

◆ *Godmother Night* by Rachel Pollack is a modern fairy tale featuring a lesbian couple, their daughter, and a dangerous fairy godmother.

◆ *The Harlequin Tea Set and Other Stories* by Agatha Christie. Thought you'd read them all? Here are nine more stories from Christie—only one of which has been previously published in the U.S.

◆ In *Remote Control* by Stephen White, psychologist/sleuth Dr. Alan Gregory races against time to save not only the daughter of the assassinated U.S. Surgeon General, but also his wife, jailed on suspicion of murder.

◆ Set at the Texas-Mexico border, Janet Peery's *The River Beyond the World* tells how two women of different cultures engage in an intimate dance of character, class, and wills.

◆ *Ten Indians* by Madison Smartt Bell. When suburban psychiatrist Mike Devlin opens a Tae Kwan Do school in inner-city Baltimore, he is caught up in the racial tensions and violence that characterize his students' urban gang life.

Adult Nonfiction

◆ In *The Art of Living Consciously—the Power of Awareness to Transform Everyday Life*, psychologist Nathaniel Branden explains that living consciously gives us more options and greater satisfaction in all areas of our lives.

◆ *Ornament and Silence: Essays on Women's Lives*, by Kennedy Fraser, enriches our understanding of women such as Virginia Woolf and Germaine Greer, significant in literature and the century past.

◆ In *A Slender Thread—Rediscovering Hope at the Heart of Crisis*, Diane Ackerman shares her insights from fielding phone calls at a local crisis center.

Noe Valley History Day

◆ The theme at this year's *Noe Valley History Day* on Sunday, June 8, 2 to 5 p.m., is "24th Street—Then and Now." The celebration will include films, photo displays, and music by the Singing Rainbow choral group (2:30) and Bruce Sherman (3:30).

Children's Fiction

◆ After some trials and tribulations, a small creature finally settles into her niche in *Goose* by Molly Bang. Ages 3 to 5.

◆ Although the protagonist might miss a clue once in a while, all the mysteries are eventually solved in *Detective Dinosaur* by James Skofield. Ages 5 to 8.

◆ Due to the creation of a national park, a family who has loved their life in the mountains is forced to relocate in *When the Whippoorwill Calls* by Candice F. Ransom. Ages 6 to 9.

◆ When a mischievous character tries to make things difficult for a clever woman, he's very surprised in *Aunt Nancy and Old Man Trouble* by Phyllis Root. Ages 6 to 9.

◆ As part of the "Critical Choices" unit in the eighth grade, Alice and her boyfriend Patrick get married—well, sort of, in *Alice in Lace* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor. Ages 10 and up.

Children's Nonfiction

◆ Bengal tigers, elephants, clowns, trapeze artists, and others are gathered under the circus tent in *Big-Top Circus* by Neil Johnson. Ages 4 to 8.

◆ Floyd Cooper describes the boyhood, education, and beliefs of one of the world's most important leaders in *Mandela—from the Life of the South African Statesman*. Ages 8 to 11.

◆ If you want to find out about a lot of places in our city particularly interesting to young people, you can get good ideas from *Kiddling Around, San Francisco—a Fun-Filled, Fact-Packed, Travel and Activity Book*, by Bob Martin. All ages.

Films, Stories, and Lapsits

◆ The library shows movies for preschoolers on Tuesday, June 10, at 10 and 11 a.m.

◆ Babies and toddlers hear stories and songs at the Wednesday lapsits, on June 4, 11, 18, and 25 at 7 p.m.

◆ Preschool story time for kids 3 to 5 is 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, June 3, 17, and 24.

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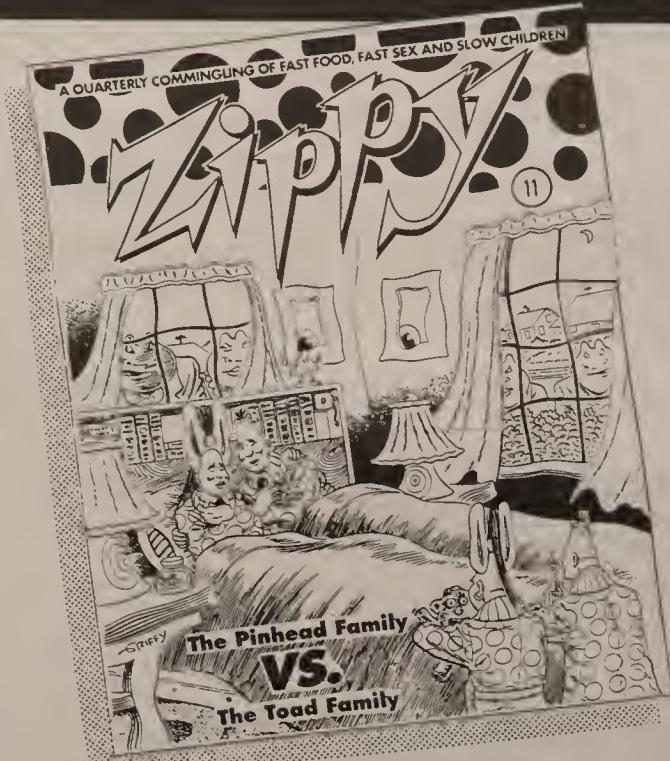
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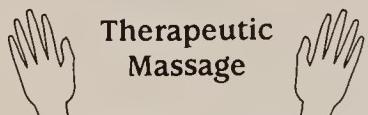
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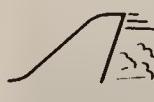


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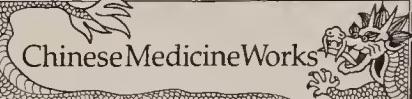
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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Quiz Time

By Mazook

NOE VALLEY HISTORY is on display for the month of June at our own Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library on Jersey Street. The party is previewed on page 1 of this issue. Check it out June 8, 2 to 5.

As a pre-History Day pop quiz, I offer you the following 10 questions:

1. Where is the oldest house in Noe Valley, and in what year was it built?

2. What is the longest-running business in Noe Valley? Hint: This business has been in the same location, "near the end of the line," since 1888.

3. What Noe Valley eatery was opened in 1943 by Cyril Saunders and then bought two years later by Herbert Gaines, who remodeled the place and changed its name in 1953? (Gaines continued to operate it until 1974, when he sold it to Sam Kawas.) Also, what was the restaurant called from 1943 to 1953?

4. What stands now on the site of (a) the old Noe Theater? (b) the old Palmer Theater? (c) the old Princess Theater? (d) the old Wilopi Hall?

5. This man was one of Noe Valley's first developers, who built many single-family dwellings in Horner's Addition in the 1880s and '90s. We even have a 285-foot alley named after him. Who is he? Where is his alley?

6. Who was Alvarado Street named after?

7. This Noe Valley barber will tell you

that he started cutting hair at Martin's Barber Shop (which used to be where Matsuya is now, on 24th near Vicksburg) in 1953, then opened up his own shop on the corner of 24th and Diamond (Artemisia's spot) in 1958. Then in 1972 he moved his shop down to what is now the back dining area of Panos', where he stayed until the restaurant expanded in 1988. Then he moved to a storefront on Church near 24th (where Do Dah Days is now). In 1994, he moved again, this time to J&S Barber Shop on Church near 25th. Can you name the barber?

8. What would you say are the boundaries of Noe Valley?

9. John and Lena Aleo—the parents of Harry Aleo, proprietor of Twin Peaks Properties on 24th near Castro—opened a grocery store in 1923, which closed in about 1955. In the 1960s it was called "Len's." Can you give me the original name and address of that grocery store?

10. When did this Rumors column first appear in the *Noe Valley Voice* (month and year)?

Write your answers down on a piece of paper (with your name and phone). Address it to Mazook at the *Voice*. Then bring it to the June 8 party and leave it in the in-box at the library's front desk.

I will pick the quizzes up and grade them. After less than an hour of frolic at the library gala, you should have no problem scoring a perfect 10!

The "correct" answers (and the contest winner) will be published in the July installment of Rumors.



IN MORE RECENT HISTORY: The Hahn's Hibachi story will just not go away. Neighbors on Jersey Street have complained about the odors emanating from the Korean-style barbecue ever since it opened in early 1996. (Hahn's replaced Simon's Spanish Shop, on the east

side of Castro near 24th.)

Hahn's owner Dave Bass has been trying to snuff the odors, but evidently the elaborate exhaust filtration system he installed last year has not stopped the fuming neighbors' complaints.

When we last updated this stink in April, the Jersey Street group was marching to City Hall to air their grievances. They went to the Health Department, the Planning Commission, the Mayor's Office, the San Francisco Police Department, and even to the Bay Area Air Quality Management Control Board.

Well, the plot has now become as murky as the restaurant's exhaust. The city's zoning administrator, Robert Passmore, told everybody who attended a meeting in mid-April that the Planning Department was looking into whether Hahn's should be classified as a "large fast-food restaurant" or a "full-service restaurant." If it's the former, that's okay. But if it's the latter, then Bass will have to apply for a conditional use permit.

Bass disputes any "full-service" classification and has hired an attorney, Joel Yodowitz, to explore his legal standing.

Meanwhile, Korean Television came to Downtown Noe Valley last month to do a story on the odor flap. Several neighbors told the *Voice* that when the TV news team was conducting interviews, the reporters appeared to be angling for anti-Korean comments.

The neighbors are going nuts now, because most of them enjoy the food at Hahn's and want the restaurant to stay. They just want to be rid of the backyard barbecue smell, through whatever filtration system would do the trick.

Is that possible? And if so, how much does it cost?

Bass's attorney says he and Bass are more than willing to sit down again with the neighbors and Mr. Passmore, to try and put a lid on this stew.



NOE VALLEY NIGHT OWLS must be nearing a state of panic, what with their only 24-hour eatery—Happy Donuts at 24th and Church—still in limbo over its "cabaret license."

As you *Vocers* know, Happy Donuts owner T.Y. Chan was told in early February that her donut shop needed a cabaret license to remain open from 2 to 6 a.m. She was also informed she'd have to stay closed during those hours pending a March 26 police hearing. "I was told that the permit would be no problem, and I paid them the \$908 fee," said Chan.

Just how did this situation come up? It seems the SFPD officer in charge of permits was doing some "routine work" last winter and discovered there were four donut shops in the Mission staying open 24 hours without a special license. Notices went out to all four, but only Happy Donuts and Hunt's (20th and Mission) applied. Hunt's got its permit in a snap.

After 20 years of serving the insomniacs, the coffee-seeking inebriates, and the very early birds of Noe Valley—not to mention the night shift at the SFPD—you'd think Happy Donuts would sail through too.

But as of late May, no permit had been issued, and Chan was still waiting. (My spies tell me someone has voiced an objection, and even though it's the only complaint, it has slowed the process.)

My question is: Since when does a donut shop become a "cabaret"?



THE NEW CREW at Urban Cellars—on 24th Street a few doors up from Unhappy Donuts—has installed a computer in their store and programmed a complete wine list, which has technical descriptions as well as the winemaker's notes.

Continued on Next Page

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RUMORS

Continued from Previous Page

Kenny Zawaideh and his niece Lima Zawaideh took over the store at the beginning of this year and hired Walid Masoud, who is working the computer.

Masoud is entering the alcoholic content, pH, and bottle date for each wine, plus its composition, appellation, growing region, type of barrel used, and the "toast level."

Soon the Cellars will have a Web site, so we all can do our homework before making that wine purchase.



SHORT SNORTS: That new house on the corner at 21st and Sanchez streets, atop "Battle Mountain," sold recently for \$1.5 million. Wonder if the tenants have met the neighbors yet. (C'mon, Noe Valley, let's remember to roll out the welcome wagon.)

Thank you, DPT, for finally (May 19) making the intersection of 27th and Sanchez a four-way stop. Hopefully, the new stop signs on 27th will halt the rash of crashes and near-misses.

By the way, that was a great review of Eric's Restaurant, down the hill at 27th and Church, in the April edition of *Spunk!*, a new "all-girl" 'zine. The review should bring even more foot and vehicle traffic to the 27th Street corridor. Now don't ignore the new stop signs.

Congratulations also to the Liberty Hill residents who have had their utility lines undergrounded, especially when the timetable for the rest of us ranges from 5 to 100 years. Of course, those of us who are in the baby boom generation are never going to die, so we can afford to wait.

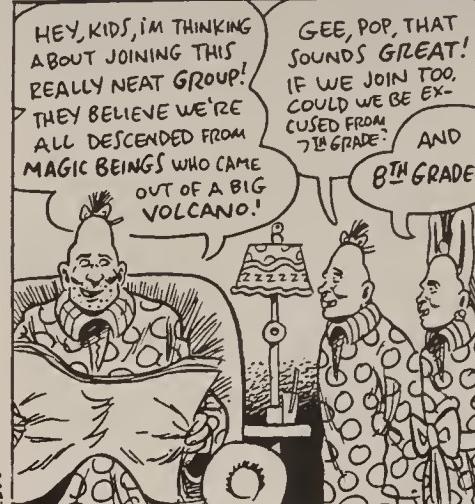


IT WAS A FUN WAIT on 24th Street near Sanchez last month. Red Dog Films had a crew of 50 shooting a Pacific Bell commercial, which will air sometime this summer.

According to Red Dog's local production manager, Lisa Ewald, the ad—for Pac Bell's message center—shows a little boy answering the phone while he's looking out the window of his apartment above Common Scents. He then becomes totally distracted by an ice cream truck parked on the corner and gets the phone message all wrong.

"The script called for a busy colorful spot, which is exactly what 24th and

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Sanchez is," says Ewald. "And we were able to hire several people in the neighborhood to work on the crew."

Lisa Ewald is a former Noe Valley resident currently living in Cole Valley, "but I am looking for a place in Noe Valley again."



THAT'S ALL, YOU ALL, but before I go, "congradulations" to all you students who have matriculated from nursery, grammar, middle, and high schools.

Also, all you parents, remember there is a big election June 3, and you must set a good example and go out and vote. Vote yes on A (school bonds) and C (zoo bonds), and your conscience on D (49er stadium).

I'll have the local tally next issue. □

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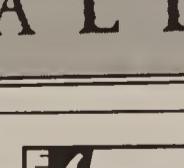
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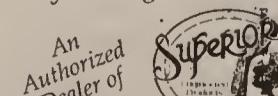
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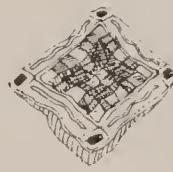
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The next *Voice* will be the July/August 1997 issue, hitting the streets of Noe Valley Wednesday, July 2. The deadline for Class Ads is **June 15**. The address is *Noe Valley Voice Class Ads*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

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A Personal Essay

By Jim Christie

Konah

THE LAST PAGE

When my wife Kathy and I married 15 years ago, we agreed that we were not interested in having children. Kathy voiced some regret over our decision around the age of 40, which did not surprise me. I had noticed the way she held and cooed at other people's babies. But I have never regretted my own selfishness, nor the freedom it has given me. Caring for a child by sending money to an aid agency was the easy (or coward's) way of fatherhood.

♦♦♦

Through photographs we watched Konah grow from a young girl in 1984 to a teenager in 1989. Then suddenly she was gone, swept away by one army or the other like so much dust on a rough plank floor.

The first picture from 1984 shows Konah standing pensively next to her younger brother, who looks either thoughtful or confused, and her father, whose hard glare seems to contain a world of suspicion. There's no warmth in those eyes.

The photo was taken four years after a group of tribal enlisted men infiltrated the executive mansion in Monrovia and assassinated the Liberian president, four years after the so-called "Day of Redemption." On that day, the descendants of the American ex-slaves who founded Liberia in 1847 — those elite *Americo-Liberians* who had ruled like white colonialists — were ousted once and for all. It was a new start.

But the revolution was short-lived.

Perhaps Konah's father's menacing look was a harbinger of things to come: In 1985 one of the original army co-conspirators turned against President Samuel Doe. However, his attempted coup d'état failed. The man's dead body was roasted over a fire in the streets of Monrovia and eaten by Doe's victorious marauding soldiers. Then in 1989, an Americo-Liberian exile named Charles Taylor led a rebel insurgency from the Ivory Coast, resulting in six more years of savagery.

During the civil war, most villages in the northeastern region of Liberia were razed and their inhabitants slaughtered. Presumably, Konah and her family were killed.

But perhaps I have read too much into her father's gaze in that 1984 photograph. It is more likely an expression of injured pride, from having to pose for some American stranger who deigns to "support" his daughter.

♦♦♦

Why didn't I want to be a father to children of my own? Is it as simple as admitting to selfishness, or joking that W.C. Fields had the right attitude toward kids? There may have been some fear as well. No, undoubtedly there was fear. Fear of a birth defect or fear of a child who would veer into serious trouble or fear of my son or daughter's premature death.

My younger brother and his wife adopted (really adopted) a foreign child. After Konah was lost, my wife suggested that we do the same. I said it was something to consider.

♦♦♦

In a photo from 1986, Konah stands next to her mother. They smile placidly, without parting their lips, giving an impression of contentment. Konah has written to us that she and her family are praying to *Wala Va* (God There) for fruitful soil, for a plentiful rice crop. The "plan coordinator" says that the depletion of the rain forest and the increased incidence of drought are leaving more and more families hungry.



In a 1987 letter Konah tells us she would like to "learn book." We know that her government assigns grade-school teachers to the villages, but it is up to the parents to buy uniforms and books. The plan coordinator includes a note requesting an extra donation for this purpose.

We know that most kids are put to work in the fields as soon as possible and never go to school. We send the extra money anyway. Perhaps one day we'll receive a picture of Konah in her khaki school uniform with the Liberian flag sewn on her shirtsleeve. It's a smaller version of the American flag, with just a single star.

♦♦♦

The final photograph arrives in 1989, a few months before the rebel invasion. Konah is smiling so brightly you'd think she was the happiest girl on earth.

♦♦♦

In 1994 I read an article about

Alexander Peal, a Liberian conservationist living in southern California who was planning to return to Liberia to save his country's sole national park. I called him and told him about Konah. Without hesitation he asked for pictures of her, so he could look for her in the refugee camps.

He has traveled to Liberia several times in the past three years, but he hasn't come across Konah Sambolah.

♦♦♦

Konah is gone, and looking at her pictures can turn my larynx into a rough-edged stone in my throat. I can't begin to imagine what it must be like to lose a child of your own flesh and blood. From time to time my wife brings up the idea of a real adoption, but I put her off.

♦♦♦

I recently applied to be a voting monitor in Liberia's upcoming election. Maybe I will go look for Konah myself. □

Randall Street resident Jim Christie joined the Voice staff in the spring of 1994.



Poetry

By Marti Heard

VIEW FROM NOE VALLEY

Twin Peaks are molding—
I can see the wispy fuzz of white spores sprouting up on the
bread brown hills;
Wet, aging crests that divide the city.
Perhaps someone left the water running in the Haight
last night.
Now soggy and groggy—the fungi fog comes forth.

Westward is swirling and lost in the soup;
It threatens, threatens—
Spewing ghostly wafts of mist over the peaks, hungry for
those of us who lie east.

But at this wee morning hour, with subtle hues illuminating
the skirts of the clear sky,
The sun is already strong enough to defeat the white beast.
It will remain simply mold on the hills.

There will be no fog in my neighborhood today!

Eureka Street resident Marti Heard is a computer consultant and former science teacher at Horace Mann Middle School.

Writers

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